



# Profibus Newsletter

June 2006

Here we are nearly half way through the year and technology keeps on moving forward. April and May 2006 saw two main events in the Profibus User Group South Africa, the first was the Hannover Fair/INTERKAMA on April 24-28, and the second the PROFIBUS USER GROUP "1 DAY AUTOMATION EXHIBITION" held at the Eskom Convention Centre on May 5th.

## PROFIBUS BREAKFAST AND 1-DAY EXHIBITION

With Electricity+Control as the official publication of the breakfast and exhibition, much of this is covered separately in this publication, see page 92. All that remains for me is to thank all the participants and exhibitors, but especially to thank the three speakers at the breakfast, Prof Ian Jandrell from Wits University, Dr Richard Roberts from Anglo American and Ed Bauer from ABB.

## HANNOVER FAIR/INTERKAMA 2006

PROFIBUS Nutzerorganisation (PNO) has a refreshing new design for its booth creating a huge 'center' for communication and information at the show!

The booth measured approximately 330 m<sup>2</sup>, and about 50 member companies presented their products, systems and services. Among the highlights were live presentations with PROFIBUS PA, PROFIsafe, PROFINET and IO-Link (discussed further below under technology update).

For the first time the "Future of Automation" forum was next to the PROFIBUS/PROFINET fair booth. At this forum, expert speakers discussed news and trends in automation technology in numerous sessions designed to address all sections of factory and process automation. Exerpts from some of these presentations will be in our next newsletter.

## CONFIRMED AGAIN! PROFIBUS IS THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR FIELDBUS

Official confirmation that PROFIBUS is the world's most popular fieldbus by a long way, has come with the news that 2005 was the most successful year to date for PROFIBUS International (PI) and its member companies.

The number of PROFIBUS nodes sold rose by nearly 25% compared to the previous year, as approximately 2,8 million PROFIBUS devices were added to the worldwide user base. The total number of PROFIBUS devices now installed has grown to 15,4 million.

PI remains on target for increasing this to 20 million by the end of 2007.

PROFIBUS is particularly strong in process automation. In 2005, 130 000 new PROFIBUS PA devices were installed, an increase of 30% compared to 2004.

## TECHNOLOGY UPDATE IO LINK: INTEGRATION DOWN TO THE SENSOR

Under the auspices of the PNO in Germany, a working group dealing with the new sensor level communications solution IO-Link has just completed its work. The final specification has now been released and first products were shown on the PNO booth at Hannover Fair.

IO-Link serves the new generation of more sophisticated devices which, for example, can have microcontroller-guided 'teach in' capability for precise sensor adjustments as well as expanded diagnostics. To fully exploit these capabilities, the interface between I/O assembly and sensor must be able to use the switching signal (process data) and also exchange parameter and diagnostics data (demand data) with the sensor.

IO-Link has been designed as an open interface with a freely available specification. International standardisation under IEC is in preparation.

In addition to the description of the communication specification, including the transmission hardware and the protocol, the IO-Link specification also contains a fieldbus-neutral data interface for process and demand data as well as information about system integration. The IO-Link mapping for PROFIBUS DP, Interbus and PROFINET has already been completed.

For more information, go to <http://www.profibus.com/pall/events/press/article/00721/>

## PUGSA WIRELESS FORUM

PROFIBUS User Group SA, under the auspices of Siemens, will be holding a forum reviewing the latest technologies with a focus on Wireless in PROFIBUS, PROFINET and PROFISAFE. Papers will be presented by representatives from Siemens and Phoenix, and an international speaker will deliver the Lapp Cable paper.

Date: Wednesday, 16 August 2006

Time: 10h00

Booking is essential as space is limited.

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