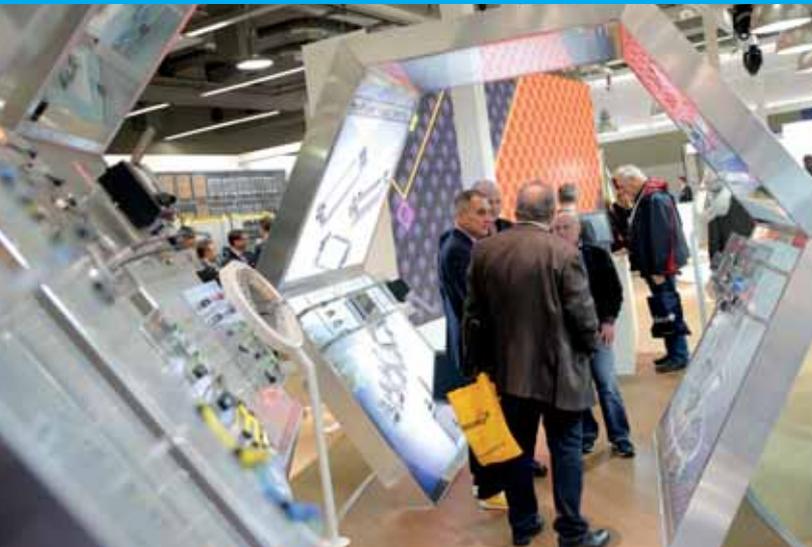


# Making connections



The Nuremberg show will enable colleagues to link up with each other and to learn about the interconnected production environments of the future, writes Dermot Healy

**S**PS IPC Drives sets out to be Europe's leading exhibition for cutting-edge automation technologies. The 2017 event, to be held at the Nuremberg Exhibition Centre on November 28-30, builds upon a legacy of shows which have apparently impressed both visitors and exhibitors. Yet all trade shows now face fierce competition, with new ways of communicating and working sweeping across the industrial landscape. Just like their exhibitors, they must adapt to meet new market conditions.

Mesago, organiser of the SPS IPC Drives exhibition, is clearly well attuned to the changing environment and has reshaped its event over the years. It has been fortunate too, in that developments in Industry 4.0 and digital technology have transformed its core exhibitors' innovations from a minority interest into a mainstream concern of all businesses that wish to remain competitive.

This year's show is set to be larger, with 1,700 exhibitors, and more closely focused on Industry 4.0 concepts than ever before. There will be layout changes as well. This year, Hall 6 will be entirely dedicated to software and IT in manufacturing; Hall 2 and Hall 10.1 will host infrastructure providers, industrial communication, plus control and interface technologies. A new feature will be guided tours of trending topics, including smart production, IT security in manufacturing and smart connectivity.

All the major players in the field of automation will be in attendance. Beckhoff will be exhibiting its entire spectrum of PC- and EtherCAT-based control technology; divided into five forums, the company's stand will give an overview of the wide range of products and services it offers. Beckhoff aims to show solutions offering maximum scalability and innovation in all areas of automation. Focusing on enhanced productivity, the potential of Cloud-based solutions and advanced connectivity will be demonstrated. Visitors will also be interested to hear more about the recently released

TwinCAT software developments.

Aucotec AG is another specialist offering software and IT innovation for manufacturing. The company's experience ranges across process control technology, mechanical engineering and plant construction. It plans to feature the Engineering Base, data-driven authoring system as an engineering platform for Industry 4.0 plant design.

## Getting in contact with sensor providers

LMI Technologies plans to show its recently released Gocater Non-Contact Volume Gauging Solution. Designed for the automotive industry, it converts a manual task into a fully automated process using blue LED structured light to deliver high levels of accuracy with very short cycle times (five seconds or less). Alongside this development, LMI will want to show its sensor solutions in a range of applications involving customisation of standard software and hardware for specific measurements and challenging production environments. At Nuremberg, the company will introduce its first IP-67-rated metrology-grade snapshot sensors for inline 3D inspection.

Other suppliers of essential specialised components will include companies like TR Electronic, with expertise in providing the right rotary encoders, linear encoders and drives as standardised products or as customised solutions. TR Electronic will welcome visitors from the automotive industry who are in search of measurement and control solutions. The company already has extensive experience of working within automotive, supplying sensors that are widely used in press lines and similar applications.

Infineon Technologies manufactures a broad range of semiconductors and system solutions, many of which are

used in automotive processes. The company will be keen to showcase its longstanding track record in industrial automation and innovations delivering the technologies needed in the 'smart factories' of tomorrow. Infineon claims to combine its sensing and motor control capabilities with in-depth power efficiency and security know-how, allowing customers to achieve the full potential of automation in the Internet of Things (IoT).

At Nuremberg, Infineon will feature drive controllers and motion control systems as well as sensor and sophisticated control technologies, among other offerings. It has also recently launched Productive 4.0, which is claimed to be the largest European research initiative in the field of Industry 4.0. With over 100 partners, including BMW, Bosch, Volvo and Ericsson, Infineon will work on digitising and networking industry. With microelectronics a key enabler for digitisation, and for optimised and integrated supply chain management, Infineon and its partners hope to create a user platform across industries and value chains that promotes the digital networking of manufacturing companies, production machines and products. Participants will explore concepts and methods to promote service-orientated architectures, plus parts and infrastructure for the IoT.

### Joining up to represent common interests

A number of organisations at Nuremberg will run joint booths to best present their sectoral interests to visitors. Profibus & Profinet International (PI), an influential interest group in the field of industrial communication, plans to bring together related companies in Hall 2. For PI, the SPS-Drives exhibition provides an ideal opportunity to combine expertise, companies and people, regionally and internationally. Other organisations will also hold presentations and podium discussions with the major German industry associations such as ZVEI (Hall 3A) and the VDMA (Hall 3). A joint 'Automation Meets IT' effort will take place in Hall 6.



The Internet of Things will be a key theme of SPS IPC Drives 2017

Other software specialists such as M&M Software will offer the opportunity to hear more about IoT and Industry 4.0. M&M will enable visitors to experience industrial internet technology in operation with a flexible IoT solution, developed in cooperation with Microsoft and which makes it possible to store, collect, analyse and visualise data from a Cloud-based sensor. There will also be displays on data

analytics in industrial settings and machine learning.

Siemens had not disclosed details of its plans at the time of publication, but the company will surely take up the challenge of showing how the Digital Enterprise concept can operate in practice. Digital transformation is already creating new competitive advantages and alternative business models in the manufacturing and process industries. Building on its experience of SPS IPC 2016, Siemens will most probably present its Cloud-based, open operating system for the IoT, along with other new products and systems. Given Siemens' high level of involvement with Industry 4.0 projects, a core objective will be to go beyond the hype and explore the added value that can be derived from digitisation in various industrial applications.

### Taking special care of motor needs

Antriebstechnik KATT Hessen focuses closely on providing specialist motors and will present numerous examples in Hall 3. With a high degree of vertical integration, AKH claims to offer customers an unrivalled ability to develop motors and related equipment that will meet their specialised requirements.

TE Automation & Control will go to SPS IPC Drives 2017 with a suite of products and depth of experience that will be of interest to visitors. Among the areas that TE will seek to highlight will be motor connectivity with high-quality transfer connections that operate at the highest possible speeds. The company's servo drives and other components all promise a reliable connection to robotic applications.

Hans Turck GmbH is another company which offers an extensive range of hardware and components necessary for industrial automation. Its displays will range from cable and fibre-optic systems, through the full range of sensors to vision measurement and identification technologies appropriate for the most challenging applications.

For Sick, the specialist supplier of sensors and sensor solutions for industrial applications, the SPS IPC event provides an ideal opportunity to showcase its 'smart factory' sensor solutions. The company plans to show how intelligent, communicative sensors enable the digitisation and networking of production and logistics systems, allowing them to self-optimize through autonomous control. A second important theme will be system safety. Sick provides customers with packages which are ready to install, comprising hardware, appropriate documentation and certification information, as well as ongoing safety services specifically tailored to manufacturing.

Mitsubishi Electric is another major player which will be attending SPS IPC 2017 with a range of products and capabilities that are central to the themes of the event. Last year, the company used the exhibition to introduce its eFactory Alliance. This brings together partner businesses and system integrators to offer service to customers seeking to make their transition to a digitised production. Visitors will expect to see developments in these partnerships and will have the opportunity to explore their concerns with the appropriate technical specialists. \*

**SPS IPC Drives 2017 will be held at the Nuremberg Exhibition Centre, Germany, on November 28-30. For more information got to: [www.mesago.de/en/SPS](http://www.mesago.de/en/SPS)**