

Europe Set to Embrace Integrated Automation Components

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Wellingborough, UK 27th June 2006 - An upswing seems likely in the European automation market for components where the PLC function is embedded. This is a clear conclusion from a recently published report from IMS Research, a leading supplier of market studies on Industrial Automation.

Key findings from a survey of purchasers and specifiers of industrial automation components included:

â€ Over three quarters of respondents were aware of products being offered with embedded PLCs. Since the market for these is currently very small, this is encouraging news.

â€ Over two thirds of respondents either purchased some embedded PLC products today, or planned to do so within the next three years.

â€ Nearly all (>95%) respondents believed that embedded PLCs would cost less than separate PLC solutions; and that embedded PLC components would cost less to install.

â€ Profibus-DP, Ethernet TCP/IP and CANopen were the most popular communication protocols used by respondents with hardware with embedded PLCs.

â€ Nearly 90% stated that communication with other embedded PLCs and a program backup facility to a PC were important; nearly 80% stated that remote monitoring from a separate PLC was important.

One concern raised by survey responses was a widespread lack of awareness of the importance of IEC-61131 and IEC-61499 programming standards. This points to a need for stronger promotion from the manufacturers and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

About IMS Research

IMS Research is a specialist supplier of market research on global electronics markets. Information from IMS Research is used by major companies worldwide to assess market trends, solve marketing problems, and improve the efficiency of their businesses. IMS Research is an international company, selling in more than 35 countries around the world and supported by offices in Wellingborough, UK, Austin, Texas and Shanghai, China.

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