

EtherCAT: A Master can also be a Slave

The fast and widely used Industrial Ethernet protocol EtherCAT has been successfully used in computer-based automation for a long time now. It is the optimal solution to meet all the newly arising demands, especially in the field of manufacturing technology as well as quality assurance and robotics.

A typical EtherCAT networking solution is generally set up by installing specialized hardware, couplers and clamps without any actual graphical user interface, behind a PC-based master. However, what if it was possible to further integrate off-the-shelf EtherCAT master PCs on the slave side of a higher-level EtherCAT topology as well?

With the new EtherCAT PC Slave Module, Kithara RealTime Suite now provides exactly this feature, allowing for a significantly higher degree of scalability. The option to utilize a PC, employ-

ing an EtherCAT interface, as a slave enables users the target-oriented and flexible conception, integration and customization of sophisticated automation processes.

Due to their universal applicability, EtherCAT slave PCs are capable of performing a variety of specialized tasks such as transferring processing power to a freely scalable computer architecture, hierarchical grading of EtherCAT topologies or the specific data handling by means of a graphical user interface. This allows you to take EtherCAT to the next level.

For an up-to-date overview of Kithara products and a variety of test versions visit our website at > www.kithara.com.

