PRESS RELEASE

Soft Servo Systems Announces the Launch of EtherCAT As a Motion Control and CNC Platform

WALTHAM, MA – April 9, 2009 – Soft Servo Systems, Inc. is proud to announce that it is one of the first companies in the United States to have adapted EtherCAT as a servo communications platform. All of Soft Servo Systems' general motion control and CNC products are now available with this popular and proven EtherCAT interface system: a fast, vendor-independent, Ethernet-based realtime network for servo and I/O communications that works with CANopen over EtherCAT (CoE) servo drives and I/O devices.

Soft Servo Systems has long been a leading provider of all-software, truly PC-based motion control and CNC solutions for the machine tool and automation industries. With each of their products, a single PC performs all servo control, including feedback loops and NC path generation, as well as providing the user interface, data processing, plant monitoring, network communications, file management, and more. The host PC can run on Windows 2000/XP/XPe, with a real-time extension to the operating system.

Superior motion control performance is achieved by fully exploiting the super-fast, super-precise computation power of today's ordinary PCs. With the PC's ever-progressing CPU speed and performance, integrated with EtherCAT technology, Soft Servo Systems' motion control and CNC software products have achieved unprecedented control performance and specifications without using proprietary hardware components.

The EtherCAT system uses standard RJ45 Ethernet cables plugged directly into the Ethernet port on the PC. Servo drives are connected in a simple, single-line daisy-chain – no hardware is required, not even a terminator. Up to 32 servo drives (plus additional I/O stations) can be integrated in one network.

"We are extremely excited to be able to offer EtherCAT to our customers." says Boo-Ho Yang, CEO and President of Soft Servo Systems, Inc. "We believe that EtherCAT is going to be THE servo communications platform of the future, due to its open protocol, well proven technology, and speed. The fact that EtherCAT requires no hardware makes it a perfect fit with our software-based products – the servo drives are plugged directly into the PC. What could be simpler?"

The EtherCAT interface system is fast, with an interpolation rate of 0.5 ms. There are no delays in gateways, and there are no underlying sub-systems. Its simplified configuration and standard cabling, as well as the elimination of adapter cards, switches and hubs, make this a very economical system, both in terms of initial cost and in terms of maintenance.

"There are many Ethernet-based servo communications protocols, but EtherCAT is emerging as the most popular," commented Xiao Tang, Vice President of Software Engineering. "Some servo drive manufacturers who have their own servo networks are developing EtherCAT servo drives. With an EtherCAT servo network, our customers can take advantage of tremendous cost savings and simplified setup and maintenance, without sacrificing speed or performance, and they can also choose from a wide variety of servo drives."

About Soft Servo Systems, Inc.

Soft Servo Systems, Inc., founded by MIT professionals in 1998, is the leading provider of PC-based motion control products that use a single host CPU to perform all real-time control operations.

Soft Servo Systems' product lines include CNC and general motion controllers (up to 32 axes) with a wide variety of servo communications platforms (EtherCAT, CANopen, MECHATROLINK™ II, MECHATROLINK™ III, Panasonic Realtime Express™, SSCNET™ and VersioBus™ fiber-optic servo communications for analog-interface servo drives).

All of Soft Servo Systems' products include an industry standard soft PLC and a Windows-based GUI application in a single package. A versatile motion library (APIs) is available, for easy development of complex motion/machine control applications in the .NET environment for Windows. More information is available at www.softservo.com.

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