



more than automation
safe automation

29 August 2007

COMPANY NEWS

Pilz expands global presence and expertise

Pilz has been busy opening new offices around the world, while several existing offices have been focusing on specific areas of new product development - all of which results in improved products and global support for customers.



One of the strengths of Pilz Automation Technology is that it is a subsidiary of an innovative organisation that operates globally. This is especially important for UK-based companies that are exporting around the world, as it means that local support will almost certainly be available for the end user. This global coverage is continually expanding.

In Ireland, not only does Pilz offer the usual comprehensive range of safety-related products and services, but the office in Cork is also home to the team that develops Pilz software. The emphasis is always on achieving ease of use, as it is recognised that software is the most important interface between Pilz products and the user (both the end user and the machine builder or system integrator). Software is becoming increasingly important to Pilz, which is one of the reasons why the software team in Ireland has grown from three in 1999 to 74 in 2007. Since Pilz Ireland was established in 1999, the software team has developed the PNOZmulti Configurator, the SafetyEYE Configurator and the PAScal Pilz Safety Calculator.

Another part of Pilz that is expanding is the Drives Applications Centre in Kaufbeuren, Germany, where the PMC (Pilz Motion Control) range of servo drives, motion controllers and motors is designed and developed. Pilz acquired the Mayr Systems division in August 2005 and moved the offices to new premises in Kaufbeuren the following January. Yet more space was rented in February 2007, primarily to house an expanding development team. All of this is leading to Pilz developing a range of motion control products that closely integrate safety with motion control functions.

Mexico may not have the same level of safety legislation as we do in Europe, but Pilz de Mexico has ambitious plans under Miguel Angel Valenzuela, who recently took over running this subsidiary. He has just opened a second office in the north of the country and has taken on two more staff to bring the total to seven. It is hoped that Pilz de Mexico will shortly receive government accreditation as a monitoring body for machinery safety. Within five years Miguel Angel Valenzuela plans to open yet another office and establish a network of distributors and system integrators, giving Pilz a presence in all of Mexico's large industrialised cities. Furthermore, his plan is to make Pilz de Mexico one of the top-ten Pilz subsidiaries in terms of turnover.

Other offices and subsidiaries have recently been opened in countries as far apart as China, Korea, Poland and Turkey.

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Note to editors

Pilz Automation Technology develops, manufactures and supplies process and automation control products for use wherever there is a requirement to ensure the safety of plant, personnel or the environment. Included in the range are: safety relays; configurable safety controllers; programmable safety systems (safety PLCs) for use with or without the SafetyBUS p safe, open industrial fieldbus network; mechanically actuated and non-contact guard switches; safety light curtains; 3D vision-based safety sensors; emergency stop switches; conventional and touchscreen operator interfaces; plus control and monitoring relays for non-safety applications.

In addition, Pilz provides safety-related services, such as training, engineering and consultancy. For 20 years Pilz has taken a leading role in educating the market with regard to safety legislation. This has been through seminars on legislation, software packages that assist with standards compliance and product selection, and publications. Pilz has produced six editions of the Guide to Machinery Safety, a Guide to Programmable Safety Systems, and publishes a free monthly email newsletter

Pilz Automation Technology is a wholly owned subsidiary of Pilz GmbH & Co KG, a family-owned German company with global operations. Since its foundation in 1948, Pilz has remained at the forefront of safety technology, launching the first safety relay the first programmable safety system, the first safe, open fieldbus system (SafetyBUS p), the first solid-state safety 'relay', the first software-configurable modular safety controller, and the first safe camera system for monitoring three-dimensional zones. Future developments will see safety technology being integrated more closely with standard control, such as in servo drives with safety functionality.

Editors should contact Pilz if they would prefer to receive future press releases electronically or by post.

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