PC-based Control for Water Management
Open automation solutions for efficient water management

PC-based Control from Beckhoff …

For over 30 years Beckhoff has been realizing automation solutions on the basis of PC-based control technology, which have proven themselves in the most diverse industries and applications on account of their openness and high performance. The globally operative company, whose headquarters and production site are in Verl, Germany, is represented by 30* subsidiaries and distributors in over 60 countries and employs around 2100* people worldwide. Beckhoff achieved a total turnover of 465 million Euros in 2011.

The constant technological development, economic growth, high production depth and production capacities of Beckhoff guarantee robustness, long-term availability and delivery reliability of PC-based control technology.

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Planners and engineers in the field of water management are faced today not only with the challenge of guaranteeing the supply of clean potable water and reliable wastewater disposal. In view of the demographic change and the increasing world population, sustainability in dealing with water as a resource and energy efficiency in the cleaning of wastewater are becoming increasingly important. At the same time the costs of building new plants or modernising existing ones are playing an ever increasing role in the municipalities.

The PC-based control system from Beckhoff offers the solution: Through the use of the latest processors, PC-based Control makes a powerful automation platform available for the acquisition and processing of all process data. Due to the open interfaces and the support of communication standards, the PC-based controller is suitable both for the central control of a wastewater treatment plant and for the decentralised control of the outstations.
Scalable automation technology as a universal control platform ...

In addition to the I/O components for the acquisition of all data points and TwinCAT automation software, the Beckhoff product range offers a universal, scalable and modular control system that provides a suitable solution for every task with regard to computing performance, complexity and costs. With their wide performance range, the DIN rail-mountable Beckhoff embedded controllers with direct I/O interface cover all control tasks from the mid to the highest segment. The devices are compact; they save space and costs and on top of that they are modular and flexible. The even more powerful Beckhoff Industrial PCs can be used as the central controller of a large plant. The modular I/O system consists of electronic terminal blocks for direct sensor/actuator wiring and a Bus Coupler for connection to the respective bus system. With over 400 types of signals, all sensors and actuators can be coupled.
Efficient water management requires fast and precise access to and processing of an abundance of process data. The Beckhoff Embedded PC series is optimally suited to this: The connected Bus Terminals support the connection of all common sensors and actuators for the precise acquisition of the different process parameters, such as levels, temperatures, flow rate, pH value, oxygen or nitrogen content, etc., at the various water treatment stations. The compact embedded controllers have sufficient performance to control the decentral outstations of a wastewater treatment plant. Apart from control technology they also take care of data storage and processing as well as local visualisation. The scalability and modularity of the PC-based controller provides the operating company with the possibility to adapt its plant to the many different or changing requirements without having to accept high implementation costs and expenditure of time on each occasion.
Open interfaces simplify communication …

Due to the variety of open software and hardware interfaces, the PC-based controller serves all common communication media and standards into the higher process level, for example via OPC and the IEC 60870-5-10x telecontrol protocols, as well as at field level via Ethernet, PROFINET, PROFIBUS, EtherNet/IP etc. Communication over long distances takes place via analog modem, radio, PC networks or mobile telephone networks. The communication standards required for this, such as GPRS, UMTS or also LTE, are supported by the PC-based platforms.
Outstation/sewage plant

- wells
- pump stations
- storm water basins
- water towers
- grid/sand catcher/mechanical purification
- primary clarification
- biological cleaning
- sludge treatment
- final clarification

... at the process level and the outstations.

Due to its open interfaces, PC-based control is suitable as a universal control platform both for the central control of a wastewater treatment plant and for the decentral control of outstations. Support for all common communication standards produces a highly efficient, available and powerful network for the transmission, storage and processing of the data, based on standard technologies. The energy sector has already created a term for this: Smart Grid. The openness of PC-based automation also enables adaptation to existing systems, so that a plant retrofit for improving the energy efficiency can be realised without problem.
The modular Beckhoff I/O system offers ...

The modular Beckhoff I/O system consists of the electronic terminal blocks for the direct sensor/actuator wiring and a Bus Coupler, Bus Terminal Controller or Embedded PC for connecting to the bus systems commonly used in water management, such as EtherCAT, EtherNet/IP, Ethernet TCP/IP, Modbus TCP, RTU, PROFINET, PROFINET and RS232/RS422/RS485. With over 400 types of signals, all common sensors and actuators can be seamlessly integrated into the controller. All ranges of application are covered, from the drive controller to measuring and safety technology. The fine-grained implementation of 1 to 16 channels per terminal allows the user to tailor his automation solution precisely to the required inputs and outputs. In addition, the modular structure offers high flexibility in the configuration of the controllers for the individual systems of a wastewater treatment plant. The use of standard components ensures economical complete solutions as well as integration into existing systems.
... tailor-made solutions for water management.

PC-based automation technology integrates extensive measuring, control and regulating technology on one platform and, together with the local and decentralised acquisition and storage of a large number of process parameters, offers the necessary conditions for the precise control of all processes in the cleaning of wastewater as well as the outstations, such as wells, pumps and storm water tanks. Process parameters such as levels, temperatures, flow rate, pH value, oxygen or nitrogen content are recorded by the Bus Terminals and processed further in the intelligent Bus Terminal Controllers or Embedded PCs. The integrated Beckhoff control solution not only has the advantage of a compact design; it also impresses through lower system costs, simplified engineering and flexibility. Substations or outstations of wastewater treatment plants can be connected via Ethernet, fieldbus, analog modem, ISDN, network radio, GSM and UMTS and allow remote access.
TwinCAT as a universal control platform ...

TwinCAT, the open, scalable Beckhoff automation software on the basis of Windows operating systems, forms the heart of the PC-based controller. It transforms a PC-compatible platform into a real-time controller with multi-PLC system, programming environment and operator station. TwinCAT is universally usable, from the controller of the wastewater treatment plant to the decentral outstations, and allows simple programming and commissioning. Numerous PLC libraries with function blocks compliant with the PLCopen standard facilitate programming and allow the use of standards. Connectivity to all popular fieldbuses and PC interfaces is supported. TwinCAT version 3 includes – alongside IEC 61131-3 – C/C++ and Matlab®/Simulink® as programming languages for real-time applications.

► www.beckhoff.com/TwinCAT
… provides for more efficiency in engineering.

A uniform tool is available for universal configuration, programming and diagnostics in TwinCAT and a tool for the design and simulation of controllers in Matlab®/Simulink®. TwinCAT allows connection to all common fieldbuses and PC interfaces as well as data connection by means of open standards such as OPC UA, the IEC 60870-5-10x telecontrol protocols or Modbus. The seamless integration of Condition Monitoring into the automation platform enables the monitoring of the states of pumps, centrifuges, etc. without the use of additional hardware. Engineering is simplified and system costs are lowered as a result. Depending on requirements, further necessary software components can be installed on the PC in addition to TwinCAT. With Windows as a uniform platform, communication between the individual components is very simple.
PC Control for water and waste water treatment systems

Control room

Data server

Ethernet TCP/IP, Wireless

Fieldbus

Ethernet TCP/IP

Remote maintenance

Ethernet Switch

Workstation lab

Workstation control room

Connection of outstation via Internet standards

Control Panel

Embedded PC

Bus Terminal Controller

Connection of outstation via fieldbus systems

Embedded PC

Bus Terminals

Industrial PC

Connection of outstation via network

Embedded PC

Outstation

Ethernet TCP/IP

DVI/USB

Wireless Terminals, EtherCAT Terminals

Wireless

Modem

GPRS

UMTS

Control Panel

Ethernet Switch

BECKHOFF New Automation Technology

We reserve the right to make technical changes.
In the water system outstations, such as wells, pumping stations or storm water tanks, process data must be acquired, processed, stored and transmitted via a communication network to a control station. Small controllers or DIN rail-mountable Embedded PCs are often used here, depending on the field of application. These controllers can optionally be equipped with larger storage media. This way, large amounts of data can be buffered if transmission to the control station is not possible for an extended period of time. A large range of different Bus Terminals for the acquisition of the various signals allows precise and efficient control of the processes. The only requirements for this are one of the above-mentioned PC-based controllers with TwinCAT automation software and – according to the existing infrastructure and the location – an interface to the respective data transmission system.
Beckhoff – New Automation Technology

Beckhoff implements open automation systems based on PC Control technology. The product range covers Industrial PCs, I/O and Fieldbus Components, Drive Technology and automation software. Products that can be used as separate components or integrated into a complete and seamless control system are available for all industries. The Beckhoff “New Automation Technology” philosophy represents universal and open control and automation solutions that are used worldwide in a wide variety of different applications, ranging from CNC-controlled machine tools to intelligent building automation.

Beckhoff at a glance

- Headquarters Verl, Germany
- Sales 2011: 465 million €
- Staff worldwide: over 2,100
- Branch Offices Germany: 11
- Subsidiaries/Branch Offices worldwide: 30
- Distributors worldwide: in more than 60 countries (as of 03/2012)

www.beckhoff.com

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Worldwide presence on all continents

The central divisions of Beckhoff, such as development, production, administration, distribution, marketing, support and service are located at the Beckhoff Automation GmbH headquarters in Verl, Germany. Rapidly growing presence in the international market is taking place through 30 subsidiaries. Through worldwide co-operation with partners, Beckhoff is represented in more than 60 countries.

Further information

The web pages “PC-based Control for Water Management” offer further information, e.g. application reports or industry-specific solutions. 

www.beckhoff.com/water

The Beckhoff catalogs and flyers are available for download on the Internet. 

www.beckhoff.com/media

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