Application News

Industrial Communication
Partner Information

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Lenze's new L-force Product Line Transparently Employs Integrated OPC Technology

Lenze is one of the leading industrial innovators of products used for "driving, positioning, and transporting". Lenze has about 3,200 employees worldwide. Some 300 of these work in Research and Development, focusing on products, solutions, systems, and services for mechanical and electronic drives.

Lenze's L-force represents an innovative and scalable product range covering all areas of drive and automation technology, embedded in a well thought-through service concept.

The L-force industrial PC's are running Windows CE, representing an excellent, compact solution that meets the real-time requirements of motion applications. However, one drawback of Windows CE is its limited support of Microsoft's DCOM technology. In fact, starting with Windows CE 6.0, Microsoft will stop including its DCOM technology into this operating system. For this reason, Lenze's design team decided against deploying DCOM technology, posing a problem because OPC communications is based on DCOM. Lenze found a solution to this problem by embedding Softing's OPC Tunnel middleware product into its L-force products.

"We are very pleased with the performance of Softing's OPC Tunnel within our new L-force product family", said Mr. Thomas Maschler, Head of Product Management Automation. "In the past, DCOM configuration issues were the leading cause for support calls. With L-force, we do not see any support calls related to OPC. This fact demonstrates that by employing Softing's OPC Tunnel, we achieved our goal to seamlessly and, more importantly, transparently integrate OPC technology into our product line."

Lenze's design team standardized on Softing's OPC Tunnel based on the software's performance and immediate availability for use in a real-time environment under Windows CE .NET. Lenze also factored-in Softing's extensive experience with embedding OPC technology into industrial components. The OPC Tunnel, part of Softing's Easy Connect Suite, combines high-performance with a robust and secure communication link between OPC components.

Industry
- Motion Control
- Mechanical and Electronic Drives

Task / Objective
Provide
- A standardized interface
- Remote access over Ethernet

Requirements
- Fully transparent to user
- Reduce support call volume
- Reduce reliance on Microsoft technology

Solution
Integrate Softing's OPC Tunnel for Windows CE and bypass DCOM

Benefits
- Short development cycle
- Adhere to OPC standard
- Remove dependence on Microsoft to include DCOM into Windows CE
- Avoid DCOM configuration problems

Market segments
- Drive Solutions
- Automotive
- Panel Building

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