



Motor Technology News - April 2012

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New Products to Show at Drives & Controls

Come and see us at this year's Drives & Controls Exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham, from 17 to 19 April. We're on stand D2 in Hall 3 and we'll be showing all the latest products and technologies from our wide range of suppliers, with several new automation and motion control products on show for the first time in the UK.

On display we'll have a top-of-the range MC464 motion co-ordinator, from Trio, linked to a number of EtherCAT based servo drives. We'll also be showing Trio's brand new MC403 and MC405 motion co-ordinators.

As sole UK agents for LTI Drives of Germany we'll be showing the exciting ServoOne high-performance servo drives and the c-Line range of general purpose servo and inverter drives.

[Click here for more](#)

A Little Humour: Two Ways to Solve an Engineering Problem

If you're an engineer in the business of solving problems we think you'll like this!

A toothpaste manufacturer had a problem: they were sometimes delivering empty boxes without the tube of toothpaste inside, and it was starting to happen too often with complaints from customers on the increase.

The empty boxes were caused by problems on the production line, and people with experience in designing production lines will tell you how difficult it is to ensure that everything happens with timing so precise that every single unit coming off it is perfect, 100% of the time.

Small variations in the environment (which can't be controlled in a cost-effective way) along with other factors can result in a small percentage of defective product. Unless the empty box problem could be addressed big customers like the supermarkets might delist the company's toothpaste and buy from an alternative manufacturer.

Understanding how important that was, the CEO got the top people in the company together and they decided to hire an external engineering consultancy to solve their empty box problem. Their own engineering department was already too stretched to take on any extra work.

The project followed the usual process: a budget was set and project sponsor allocated, requests for proposals (RFPs) were issued and third-parties selected. Two months and tens of thousands of pounds later they had a fantastic solution. It was delivered on time, within budget, was high quality, and everyone involved on the project had a great time.

[Read more here](#)

Harmonised Standards

6 March 2012
Jon Severn
MachineBuilding.net

Once again, there is a new list of Harmonised Standards for the Machinery Directive. This latest list was published on 29 February and, as last time, most of the changes are newly published or updated type-C standards for specific classes of machinery.

[Read more here](#)



Drop-in Replacements for old SIZAG

For any of you having difficulty finding suitable replacements for old Siemens SIZAG units, we've got the perfect solution. Drop-in replacements! Simple.

[Click here to learn more...](#)

Running for Mind

On Sunday 20 May 2012, Andrew Fallows, Motor Technology's managing director, his son Mike and daughter Vicky are all running in the BUPA Great Manchester Run to raise money for the charity Mind.

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Useful online calculator

We've found a really useful online calculator that we thought we'd share with you. It's called Instacalc and what makes it so noteworthy is its ease of use. All you have to do is type into one of the fields and the answer magically appears.

[Click here to learn more...](#)

Puzzle Corner. The Solution to The Band Around the Earth

In the last issue of MTN we asked you to see if you could work out what would happen if you added just 10 metres to a tight fitting steel band that was wrapped tightly around the earth. Here is the answer.

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