



## Headline Makers

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Failure of automation equipment is extremely rare but when it does happen, it does not have to be a disaster. The RepairPlus™ service from a leading automation supplier will quickly repair equipment from a variety of manufacturers, using replacement parts that meet or even exceed the original design specifications. The RepairPlus Service is able to repair, test and return over 50,000 items supporting over 5,000 different factory automation manufacturers.



Ferrari has placed an order with A leading manufacturer of servo-hydraulic and servo-electric drive systems for the engineering, design, development and deployment of a next-generation driving simulator, to be located at Ferrari's headquarters in Maranello, Italy. This multi-million-Euro project involves a dynamic driving simulator featuring customised motion control with combined motion mechanism and control loading. The package includes all software and a dedicated operator workstation.

PAT testing is an important part of any organisation's health and safety compliance - the HSE states that 25% of all reportable electrical accidents involve portable appliances. The Electricity at Work Regulations places a legal responsibility on employers, employees and self-employed persons to comply with these regulations, which means there's a need for a planned maintenance routine, including inspection and testing. One company with many years' experience of running PAT courses, provides the knowledge, training and experience to enable a suitable person to become a competent trained PAT tester. Throughout the course classic mistakes are identified - such as forgetting to switch the appliance on - allowing trainees to understand the importance of doing the tests properly.

A leading automation supplier has introduced three new advanced process control (APC) function blocks in the latest version of RSLogix 5000 engineering software. Native to the Allen-Bradley Logix family of controllers, the new function blocks offer process users sophisticated APC technology that is simpler to implement. In addition, the company introduced a new redundancy module and improvements in system availability, further extending the capabilities of the company's process automation system. All are part of the continued focus on helping process customers improve their operations.

A leading manufacturer of servo-hydraulic and servo-electric drive systems has made an investment from available cash balances, resulting in 40 percent ownership of the wind energy business of the privately-held company LTi REEnergy GmbH of Unna, Germany. LTi REEnergy specialises in the design and manufacture of servo controllers, as well as complete drive systems for electric rotor blade controls for wind turbines. Sales for the past 12 months were EUR55 million (approximately \$85 million). The Company expects to acquire the remaining 60% in 12 months subject to conventional conditions of closing.

Major changes to the machinery directive will put even greater health and safety responsibility on those declaring compliance – and heavy penalties for those that fail to meet them, says A CE Marking specialist, which has put together a series of training seminars to help affected companies. The new directive 2006/42/EC shows significant modifications from the existing 98/37/EC, and was introduced into UK legislation at the end of June 2008 – coming fully into force on 29th December 2009.

A leading automation supplier continues to offer its customers cutting-edge technology with the release of the OneGear product line providing a full range of motor control center and power control center options. The OneGear product line is the next generation of medium voltage motor control specifically designed for use with full voltage and solid-state, reduced voltage applications, supporting operating voltages up to 15kV.

When the world's leading supplier of car rack systems decided to invest in a new world-class test facility, it chose a leading manufacturer of servo-hydraulic and servo-electric drive systems for a test rig to simulate the conditions its products are likely to face on all the world's roads. Swedish company Thule, the world leader in Sports Utility Transportation including roof top boxes, roof racks, roof rails and bike carriers, took delivery of the test rig in February 2008, a month before it opened its new test centre in Hillerstorp, Sweden. The facility will support the entire Thule group, which has numerous locations around the world.

A leading automation supplier will participate in Plant-to-Enterprise Conference: Delivering on Strategies, that will be held in Prague, November 3 and 4. During the two day event, speakers from a variety of industries will offer insight to best practices in leveraging plant floor resources and systems to deliver strategic initiatives such as Lean, Quality & Regulatory Compliance, the Real-Time Enterprise, Product Lifecycle Management and Asset Performance Management.

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## ***What's Happening?***

Manufacturing Technology Ireland – Dublin – November 4-6

Automation Fair - Nashville, Tennessee – November 19-20

SPS/IPC/Drives - Nuremberg, Germany – November 25-27