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NO INDUSTRIE 4.0 WITHOUT MACHINE SAFETY

“Safety Technology specialists should be involved as early as the design phase.”

Is your safety technology compatible with Industry 4.0 / IIoT?

Philip Schmersal: Industry 4.0 / IIoT is an evolutionary process, so we are wary of assuming we have finished off-the-peg solutions ready – it is much more a question of permanent further development. The prevailing issues of Industry 4.0 are communication and data exchange, intelligent networking and flexibility. In this respect, our safety controller PSC1 is Industry 4.0 compliant as it enables the construction of modular safety architectures. Our new safety installation systems also represent a flexible Plug-and-Play solution which can deliver comprehensive diagnostics data. We have also developed a range of safety solutions, including our established safety controller for human robot collaboration to meet the increasing demand for robot use.

What will be the major challenges for safety technology in Industry 4.0?

Philip Schmersal: These include questions of data security – the key is: security, the standardisation and also the further development and adaptation of the standards to accommodate the new requirements of Industry 4.0. Another challenge lies in working with our customers to find out what developments, product applications and business modules are actually relevant to their own companies in line with Industry 4.0. After all, Industry 4.0 is no end in itself, it is a factor in business success.

How will the requirements of your customers and their design departments change?

Philip Schmersal: During the design process, machine constructors will increasingly be relying on simulations using 3D models. This requires a faster exchange of process information among the suppliers and all the companies involved in the production process. In order to achieve the best possible safety solution from an economic perspective, machine safety specialists should be involved as early as the design phase. This is where knowledge transfer and engineering support become increasingly important. We have taken this development into consideration with the foundation of our service division tec.nicum.

Images:
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