

## **e-F@ctory Alliance welcome Eplan as new member**

**Ratingen, 28th of January 2014**

**In parallel with Eplan joining the e-F@ctory Alliance, Mitsubishi Electric Europe have been welcomed into Eplan's "Community of efficient engineering". This was agreed between Maximilian Brandl, Chairman of Eplan's board of Management, and Hartmut Pütz, President of Mitsubishi Electric's European Factory Automation Business Group, during a meeting at the SPS IPC Drives fair 2013 in Nuremberg, Germany. The meeting confirmed the importance of the close and strategic cooperation between Eplan and Mitsubishi Electric.**

Hartmut Pütz comments "We highly appreciate the close cooperation with Eplan. The Eplan Platform impressively addresses the issue of minimising engineering costs effectively. This enables us to provide our mutual customers with an additional innovative solution based on our e-F@ctory Alliance." Maximilian Brandl agrees and adds: "We are pleased to be a member of the Mitsubishi Electric partner network. Our worldwide customers benefit from the new eCAD & PLC interface and the availability of many components on the Eplan Data Portal. We are convinced that the cooperation with Mitsubishi Electric will furthermore ease our market approach in Japan." Following the common understanding of both partners, a close cooperation between their development departments has begun, to enable the optimal integration of the two software worlds. It is predicted that the final result will enable their mutual customers to benefit from reductions in engineering costs of more than 50%.

As their first step, the new e-F@ctory Alliance partner Eplan has worked with Mitsubishi Electric Europe to integrate machine and process design, so that machines and systems can be developed and commissioned in an

even shorter amount of time than before.

Currently, machine builders and system integrators start with initial design ideas and move through preplanning and basic engineering phases to detail engineering, building, testing and commissioning. Typically the various tasks are processed in separate systems, such as graphics tools, databases and text processing tools. As the project progresses, these often need to be combined, which can be difficult and time-consuming. To address this, e-F@ctory Alliance members Mitsubishi Electric and Eplan have developed process-oriented engineering solutions that deliver comprehensive workflow solutions from the initial idea through development and on to operation.

**The common solution:**

Synchronization between electrical design software Eplan Electric P8, part of the Eplan Platform, and GXWorks2, Mitsubishi Electric's configuration and programming software for its MELSEC PLC range.

The Eplan Platform can now be integrated with GXWorks2. Eplan Electric P8 builds bridges between electrical and control engineering and their documentation. "Integration with GXWorks2 demonstrates the realisation of increased project quality and data accuracy, while at the same time reducing costs and engineering time for mutual customers of Eplan and Mitsubishi Electric" comments Thomas Lantermann, Senior Business Development Manager at Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V., Factory Automation – European Business Group

The Eplan Platform is central, collating all the data from preliminary planning to detail engineering. All subsequent stages of the project can be based on this comprehensive data set. Mitsubishi Electric's macros (libraries) and product CAD data can also be included to speed up component selection, configuration and schematic designing.

With the electrical design complete, all of the data generated within Eplan can be imported directly into GXWorks2, where system configuration and

programming can be quickly and easily carried out.

Complete or partial projects can be saved in libraries for use within future applications, meaning that once a function, program or structure is written, tested and proven, it can be integrated in new systems in minutes. Thus, future designs are simplified.

With the new integrated design tools and capabilities delivered by e-F@ctory Alliance partner Eplan and Mitsubishi Electric, engineers across all disciplines and at all phases of the design process benefit from the comfortable and consistent implementation of integrated engineering.

**Note to Editor:** If you would like text in another language please contact Nicola Bigmore at DMA Europa – [Nicola@dmaeuropa.com](mailto:Nicola@dmaeuropa.com)

#### Photo Captions:



**Picture 1:** In parallel with Eplan joining the e-F@ctory Alliance, Mitsubishi Electric Europe have been welcomed into Eplan's Community of Efficient Engineering.



**Picture 2:** Hartmut Pütz, President of Mitsubishi Electric's European Factory Automation Business Group comments "We highly appreciate the close cooperation with Eplan. The Eplan Engineering Suite impressively addresses the issue of minimising engineering costs effectively. This enables us to provide our mutual customers with an additional innovative solution based on our e-F@ctory Alliance."



**Picture 3:** Maximilian Brandl, Chairman of Eplan's board of Management, adds: "Our worldwide customers benefit from the new eCAD & PLC interface and the availability of many components on the Eplan Data Portal."

#### **About EPLAN Software & Service**

EPLAN Software & Service develops CAE solutions and advises companies in the optimization of their engineering processes. Customers profit from increased efficiency in the product development process through standardized procedures, automated sequences and consistent workflows. EPLAN provides custom-made concepts for system implementation, installation and smooth integration into the IT / PLM system landscape – based on standard engineering solutions. The service

portfolio also covers customizing, consulting and training. The development of individual and standardized interfaces for ERP, PDM and PLM ensures data consistency in product development. Consistent customer orientation, global support and innovative development and interface expertise are success factors. EPLAN is a subsidiary of Rittal Software Systems and is hence part of the Friedhelm Loh Group, which employs more than 11,500 staff around the world and had a turnover of € 2.2 billion in 2012. EPLAN is therefore synonymous with continuity and investment security. Seven German EPLAN branches and a presence in over 50 countries support about 40,000 customers around the world with around 100,000 installations. "EPLAN – efficient engineering." – the company motto emphasizes the competence of optimized, efficient processes, which help customers to be competitive in the long term.

**Further information:**

[www.eplan.de](http://www.eplan.de)

**About Mitsubishi Electric**

With over 90 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products to both corporate clients and general consumers all over the world, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation is a recognized world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, as well as in products for the energy sector, water and waste water, transportation and building equipment.

With around 121.000 employees the company recorded consolidated group sales of 29,5 billion Euro\* in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2013.

Our sales offices, research & development centres and manufacturing plants are located in over 30 countries.

Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V., Factory Automation European Business Group (FA-EBG) has its European headquarters in Ratingen near Dusseldorf, Germany. It is a part of Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V., a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi

Electric Corporation, Japan.

The role of FA-EBG is to manage sales, service and support across its network of local branches and distributors throughout the EMEA region.

*\*Exchange rate 120,69 Yen = 1 Euro, Stand 31.3.2013 (Source: Deutsche Bundesbank)*

**Further Information:**

[www.e-factory-alliance.com](http://www.e-factory-alliance.com)

[eu3a.mitsubishielectric.com/fa](http://eu3a.mitsubishielectric.com/fa)

[www.mitsubishielectric.com](http://www.mitsubishielectric.com)

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