Product Focus

EtherCAT: EtherCAT Master as Slave

The fast and widely used Industrial Ethernet protocol EtherCAT has been successfully used in computer-based automation for a long time now. It is the optimal solution to fulfill constantly emerging tasks, especially in the field of manufacturing technology as well as quality assurance and robotics.

A typical EtherCAT networking solution is generally set up by installing specialized hardware, couplers and clamps without any actual graphical user interface, behind a PC-based master. However, what if it was possible to further integrate off-the-shelf EtherCAT master PCs on the slave side of a higher-level EtherCAT topology as well?

With the new EtherCAT PC Slave Module, Kithara RealTime Suite now provides exactly this feature, allowing for a significantly higher degree of scalability. The option to utilize a PC as slave, by employing an EtherCAT interface card, enables users the target-oriented and flexible creation, integration and customization of sophisticated automation processes.

Due to their universal applicability, EtherCAT slave PCs are capable of performing a variety of specialized tasks such as transferring processing power to a freely scalable computer architecture, hierarchical grading of EtherCAT topologies or the specific data management with a graphical user interface. This allows you to take EtherCAT to the next level.

The latest information about Kithara products as well as a free 90-day trial version can be found › **on our website**.