



Omron Electronics B.V.

Contact: Rob van Ouwerkerk
 Segment: Industrial automation
 Personnel: 23.500
 Address: Zilverenberg 2
 NL-5234 GM 's-Hertogenbosch

Contact data: Phone: +31 (0)73 / 64 81 81
 eMail: rob.van.ouwerkerk@omron.com
 Internet: www.omron.de

BENCHMARK REPORT



Factory Automation

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M&M Software GmbH

Industriestrasse 5
 78112 St.Georgen

Phone: +49 (0)7724 / 94 15-0

Telefax: +49 (0)7724 / 94 15-23

eMail: info@mm-software.com

Internet: www.mm-software.com

Bus configurator on FDT-basis optimizes configuration and maintenance



User

Omron – a globally operating company with 23.500 employees and a turnover of 4,4 Bil € - is the leading producer of advanced technological products in the Industrial automation and supplier of Application know-how. Omron Industrial Automation operates locally in all European countries.

The situation

Omron Industrial Automation wanted to quickly obtain a functioning Bus configurator for their new Bus components CJ1W-PRM21 and CS1W-PRM21 (Profibus DP-Master subassemblies). This Bus configurator should be based on the trendsetting Standard FDT/DTM to allow for functional extensions with little time and costs during upgrading developments. Rob van Ouwerkerk, Project Manager at Omron Europe, says: "We were looking for a specialist with a good knowledge of our line of business and with a first-class project management. He should also be able to handle development work successfully under extreme time constraints."

Solution

The Automation Business Unit of the Omron Europe B.V. has engaged the

know-how of the M&M Software GmbH in the development of the FDT-technology for the development of a Bus configurator on the basis of the FDT/DTM-Standard. A first audit took place in April 2003. "During this audit, M&M was not only able to demonstrate their vast FDT know-how, but also convinced us with their professional approach to Software development and Project management. The good impression on the competent approach by M&M gained in the audit were confirmed in the practical handling of the project", says Rob van Ouwerkerk. He names as an example the efficient recording of the requirements in a Requirements Work-shop, which took place before the project kick-off at the end of May 2003.



CX-Profibus, Project View

The resulting Software Requirement Specification on the basis of Use Cases and a first executable prototype at the end of July 2003 gave Omron a first insight into the solution and the opportunity to voice requests for optimization. The second Beta-Version was then available by September 1, 2003.

Conclusion

Rob van Ouwerkerk concludes: "Through the cooperation with M&M,

we were able to provide in a very short time a fully functioning Bus configurator based on the FDT/DTM Standard for our Profibus-subassemblies, which is implemented in customer applications. The fdtCONTAINER from M&M Software ensures that CX-Profibus is also well equipped for future upgrading /extensions: Functional upgrades can be made and do not affect existing solutions. For example new plant controls can be equipped with the help of Software functions within a short period of time and cost-effectively. The functions of new device-versions can grow over time and gradually be introduced in the market – without having to change the integration into engineering tools. This technology was not only implemented in these products, but is also part of the development of other products. Omron also benefits from the continual further development and improvement of the Product family fdtCONTAINER, which will be directly implemented in the CX-Profibus."

"Due to the good experiences, we plan to carry out more FDT-based projects with M&M."



Rob van Ouwerkerk
Omron Electronics