

iTAC Software AG Celebrates 10-Year Company Anniversary

iTAC Software presents MES visions for the next decade

Dernbach, Sept. 29, 2008 — *After establishing itself in the telecommunication and automotive industries, iTAC Software AG has today become one of the leading MES and traceability providers for all discrete manufacturing industries. On its 10-year company anniversary in September, the company not only reflected on its past: it also announced a new generation of its innovative MES software.*

"Twenty-thousand plant modules in more than 13 countries communicate with the iTAC.MES.Suite." With these impressive numbers, Robert Hoog, chairman of the iTAC supervisory board, welcomed the 120 guests to the anniversary celebrations at the Besselich monastery manor in Urbar.

Thanks to an outstanding product and its continued development, the enterprise has been successful in winning customer loyalty over the past 10 years. "iTAC once — iTAC always" is how Hoog summarized the enthusiasm for the company that the supervisory board shares equally with numerous customers, 28 partner companies and 60 employees.

David Burger, CEO of iTAC Software AG, described the challenge to which the company has committed itself with the statement "Address complexity through precision – in service and solution delivery".

"The need for stable, scalable solutions exists. The strong preventative approach of the iTAC.MES.Suite (built as planned) will continue to be the key to success in the future." Of this, Burger is certain.

As production systems and IT system environments become even more interwoven in the future, cross-industry MES software represents an ideal solution.

Praise and recognition were also given by the State Ministry of the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate. Dr. Ulrich Link, director of the department for innovation & mid-size companies, described iTAC Software AG as a "model enterprise" and gave congratulations for the success in having founded the enterprise in spite of difficult times and having expanded successfully. "Many of the enterprises founded in the 90s that were supported by venture capital no longer exist", he stated, emphasizing his earlier remarks.

"There is a need for people who drive innovation", said Dieter Meuser, CTO and founder of iTAC Software AG, as he began his review of 10 years of iTAC. One of these people was his former superior, Hans-Georg Schneider at Bosch Telecom GmbH in Limburg. When everyone was talking about CIM (Computer Integrated Manufacturing) in the late 80s/early 90s, he was actively driving development.

The creation of a practically oriented specification book for the implementation of a quality-data acquisition system by Bosch Telecom GmbH in 1991 served as the cornerstone for founding iTAC Software on August 1, 1998, by Dieter Meuser, Christine Lahnstein and Volker Burch.

(Abbreviated version)

Meuser highlighted important milestones in the history of the enterprise:

- from the REPRO system to the "easy works" MES product to the iTAC.MES.Suite
- from the first MES customer Mannesmann VDO (today Continental) in 2000, the first U.S. customer Caterpillar in 2001, the first global rollout of the MES software in 2005 at Hella Hueck AG to the realization of a tracking & tracing system for supporting the construction of the Baltic Sea pipeline for Nordstream AG (joint venture between Gazprom/BASF/EON)

- from beginnings in the telecommunication industry to winning new customers in the automotive, high-tech, medical-technology, and energy and supply industries

Meuser emphasized that, in addition to large, global customers, small- and medium-size customers are also very important to the software manufacturer. As did the previous speaker, he closed by thanking the employees of the enterprise for their dedicated and untiring commitment: "Absolute idealism is what drives the iTAC team to constantly improve iTAC.MES.Suite."

In the opening to his speech on the topic of product management at iTAC, Martin Heinz, vice president of product management of iTAC Software AG, stated, "It is essential to know what is possible and what is not possible."

In a sea of MES providers, iTAC Software AG has succeeded in distinguishing itself from the competition both technologically, through the platform neutrality of the software, and technically, through the broad functional scope (portfolio) of the software.

"From the viewpoint of the enterprises, the motivation for using MES software is clearly defined: a reduction in processing times, transparency, improvements in production, improvements in productivity, planning security, improvements in the ability to adhere to delivery dates, etc. Focus is no longer on just pure tracking", said Heinz. It is for this reason

that the added value of the iTAC.MES.Suite has been intentionally emphasized as "More than just Traceability" since 2007. The product is characterized by four functional services: Traceability (TR Service), Quality Management (QM Service), Production Management (PM Service) and Material Logistic (ML Service).

"Through continuous communication with customers, user groups, working groups and associations, we are always working to further develop the already established MES functional portfolio in the context of integrated production-, machine- and quality-data collection and the analysis of that data", continued Heinz.

Shortly before the start of the festive evening event, Frank Meilinger from the Advanced Technology Division surprised everyone with a true innovation. He announced the "next generation" of the proven MES software: "With the iTAC.MES.Suite release 7.0., we will be the world's first MES provider to rely fully on the latest Java enterprise technology, Java Enterprise Edition 5 (Java EE 5)."

Java EE 5 is a framework for software manufacturers, not a product, he emphasized. It is suited, above all, for multi-layer applications that need to run around the clock. "By relying on the latest technological industry standard, iTAC is able to offer its customers numerous advantages", said Meilinger.

Among others, the iTAC.MES.Suite rel. 7.0 can be run on all Java application server platforms relevant to critical business applications, such as BEA WebLogic, IBM WebSphere, SAP NetWeaver, Oracle Application Server, Red Hat JBoss and Sun Java System Application Server and thus offers long-term investment protection. "We can reduce the development effort for redundant functions and interfaces and invest more time in the functional further development of our software", Meilinger confidently stated.

(Long version)

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iTAC Software AG

iTAC Software AG is a leading provider of manufacturing execution systems (MES). As a system and solution provider, iTAC develops, integrates and maintains its platform-independent iTAC.MES.Suite for productive enterprises around the world.

Thanks to its outstanding technological foundation and high standardization level, the iTAC.MES.Suite can be used in many industries. From a functional standpoint, the MES solution enables a considerable improvement in the quality of processes and products, up to zero-fault production. With an extensive functional portfolio and the product philosophy "**more than just traceability**", the iTAC.MES.Suite convinces not only through traceability (TR Service), but also through the Production Management (PM Service), Quality Management (QM Service), and Material Logistic (ML Service) services.

iTAC Software AG is headquartered in Germany, and branch offices are located in France, the U.S.A. and China. www.itacsoftware.de