**Integration is the key**

**Achema Daily: Mr. Drathen, what is the reason for the Namur NE 100?**

Drathen: Normally you have to select lots of devices for your project, you get the information from different manufacturers, in different media, with different characteristics and forms. The result is, that it is very difficult, to compare those devices and to transfer product data to the engineering tool. For example the measuring performance is defined in different way by different manufacturers. It takes a lot of time to find information in different structures, different terms, different numbering systems and different classifications. And there are different kinds of documentation for one object e.g. specsheets, simulation diagrams or function charts. All these documents are up to date based on different databases, which are not synchronized. You see, the problem is multidimensional. So, it would be great, to start a CAE-system and see the device data already implemented or may be easily downloaded with a common structure and standard definitions.

**Achema Daily: What are the biggest challenges concerning CAE systems?**

Drathen: CAE systems support the engineering processes and they should connect the end user and supplier processes. But not all CAE-systems support a standardized electronic exchange-format for device properties based on XML or interfaces to procurement, material and plant maintenance systems. Most of them aren't able to handle standardized lists of properties for process control devices.

**Achema Daily: What do you recommend to optimize the situation?**

Drathen: Customer and supplier processes are not standardized and most CAE systems are not able to fulfill the technical requirements. To improve process quality and to save costs: We need standardized exchange formats based on XML and we need standardized interfaces between customer and supplier systems. This is the basic work of NAMUR. The fast exchange of information, is the aim to create an international standard in cooperation with IEC and ISA. It is not the purpose to create a new classification system for devices neither to prefer nor to reject one. And we are working on the creation of lists of properties (eSpec Sheets) covering all classes of pc-devices. Another task is the creation of an easy-to-use WEB server for creating and maintaining eSpec Sheets familiar with IEC-server and for putting eSpec Sheets at companies proposal. And finally the development of application tools for handling files and to create an XML-exchange format supported by SAP.

**Achema Daily: What are the lessons learned from the project?**

Drathen: First: the overall business process works properly. The manufacturers are lacking solutions now, too. Further pilot projects are on the way between Wacker, Innotec and Endress + Hauser. Another one between BASF, Intergraph and Rössberg and different manufacturers. And Degussa, Rössberg and different manufacturers. You see, the benefits are recognized and the first steps have been taken.

**Achema Daily: ... and what comes next?**

Drathen: We are working on further spec sheets of the NE 100. In Version 2 there are already more than 62 device classifications implemented. And of course we are very proud that it came to an agreement with ISA, what means we are matching Namur NE 100 and ISA - 20. Therefore different meetings took place last year. Looking into the near future: Next version 3.0 of NE 100 is planned for this year as a common recommendation and the
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Achema Daily: What are the main objectives and tasks of Prolist?

Drathen: Our main aim is to help companies saving transaction costs by an electronic data exchange format whichecompanies (vendors, owner/operators, EPC companies) can use for communications. It is the aim to create an international standard in cooperation with IEC and ISA. It is not the purpose to create a new classification system for devices neither to prefer nor to reject one. And we are working on the creation of lists of properties (eSpec Sheets) covering all classes of pc-devices. Another task is the creation of an easy-to-use WEB server for creating and maintaining eSpec Sheets familiar with IEC-server and for putting eSpec Sheets at companies proposal. And finally the development of application tools for handling files and to create an XML-exchange format supported by SAP.

Achema Daily: What are the lessons learned from the project?

Drathen: First: the overall business process works properly. The manufacturers are lacking adapters for their inhouse catalog systems. They are today on the way to realize adapters. First the server was a little bit slow. The problem was solved in the meantime to the greatest possible extent. The adapter to SmartPlant Instrumentation was difficult to create, because the data models on both sides differ in detail. This problem has been solved now, too. Further pilot projects are on the way between Wacker, Innotec and Endress + Hauser. Another one between BASF, Intergraph and Rösberg and different manufacturers. And Degussa, Rösberg and different manufacturers. You see, the benefits are recognized and the first steps have been taken.

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