

Press release

Digital solution for a software-defined factory

Concept study by SEW-EURODRIVE and Software Defined Automation

Bruchsal/Hanover 2025: Bruchsal-based drive and automation specialist SEW-EURODRIVE is showcasing the DriveOperations concept study at HANNOVER MESSE. The secure, web-based tool simplifies orchestration and software provision for a range of field units from various manufacturers.

DriveOperations was developed jointly by Bruchsal-based family-run company SEW-EURODRIVE and Software Defined Automation GmbH as a vision for the digital, intelligently networked factory of the future. Multi-vendor controllers and components, including PLCs, drives, HMIs, and edge applications are integrated into a cloud-based platform. This simplifies software management, supply, and automation support, while secure remote access and connectivity reduce service outlay.

The software applications of cooperation partner Software Defined Automation GmbH form the basis, and these can be executed directly in the cloud without any previous installation. Automatic backups are available to safeguard the system against coding errors, hacker attacks, or loss of coding versions, for example, and can be provided or restored at the click of a mouse. In addition, backups can be saved locally as a safeguard against problems connecting with the cloud. An intelligent versioning tool enables transparent code change management, thus making it possible to manage various PLCs on a single platform.

The access and administration rights are stored in a user registry. As a result, secure use and interaction by all users is possible on this single platform any time and from anywhere. Production managers always have insight into all controllers and into the software of the machinery and equipment, and can even temporarily grant individual access rights to technicians or IT support, for example. Whether for startup, production, or maintenance, on-site service is no longer necessary in many cases.

An AI-powered tool translates the control codes into human language, which makes the PLC codes generally understandable. Pre-hosted engineering tools on the cloud ensure that the correct version of the tools is always used, directly from the browser and without previous installation. "DriveOperations boosts efficiency, flexibility, and convenience, saves resources, and is therefore not only a digital milestone, but also sustainable in the best sense of word," says Milan Licina, who is responsible for the concept study at SEW-EURODRIVE.

At HANNOVER MESSE, SEW-EURODRIVE is demonstrating the practical added value to visitors using systems and machines as examples – both on site and remotely in the partner country Canada. End customers can scale their process sequences completely on their own using DriveOperations. The operating and control technology from various providers is digitally integrated, which boosts the efficiency of the connected systems throughout the entire life cycle – a key step on the way to the software-defined factory of the future.

Image

DriveOperations

Keyword

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Link

www.sew-eurodrive.de/hanover-fair/
www.sew-eurodrive.de/company/news-dates/press-center/press-center.html

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About SEW-EURODRIVE

Founded in 1931, SEW-EURODRIVE GmbH & Co KG is a family business headquartered in Bruchsal, near Karlsruhe, in the Baden-Württemberg region of Germany.

Today, SEW-EURODRIVE is one of the world's leading specialists in drive and automation technology, with more than 22 000 employees, 17 production plants, and 92 Drive Technology Centers in 57 countries.

As one of the leading companies in its field, SEW-EURODRIVE keeps applications, processes, systems, and machinery moving in countless sectors – from airport logistics to industrial processes. With around 800 employees working in research and development, the company is making an innovative contribution to shaping the future of drive technology. Proximity to customers is one of SEW-EURODRIVE's top priorities. An extensive sales and service network provides professional advice on site and ensures the rapid availability of spare parts and repairs – anywhere in the world.

Alongside its headquarters and production facilities in Bruchsal and its plant in Graben-Neudorf, the company operates 30 other sites across Germany. SEW-EURODRIVE has also had a presence in Canada, the partner country for HANNOVER MESSE 2025, for over 50 years. Its headquarters there are in Toronto.

About Software Defined Automation

Founded by experts from the fields of manufacturing, industrial software, and cloud technology, Software Defined Automation has a vision of a future where PLC management and development is simple, secure, and efficient, so that factories can increase their uptime, shorten their mean time to recovery, and maximize the productivity of their assets. The company is headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts, and also has offices in Munich, Germany. For more information, go to www.softwaredefinedautomation.io.