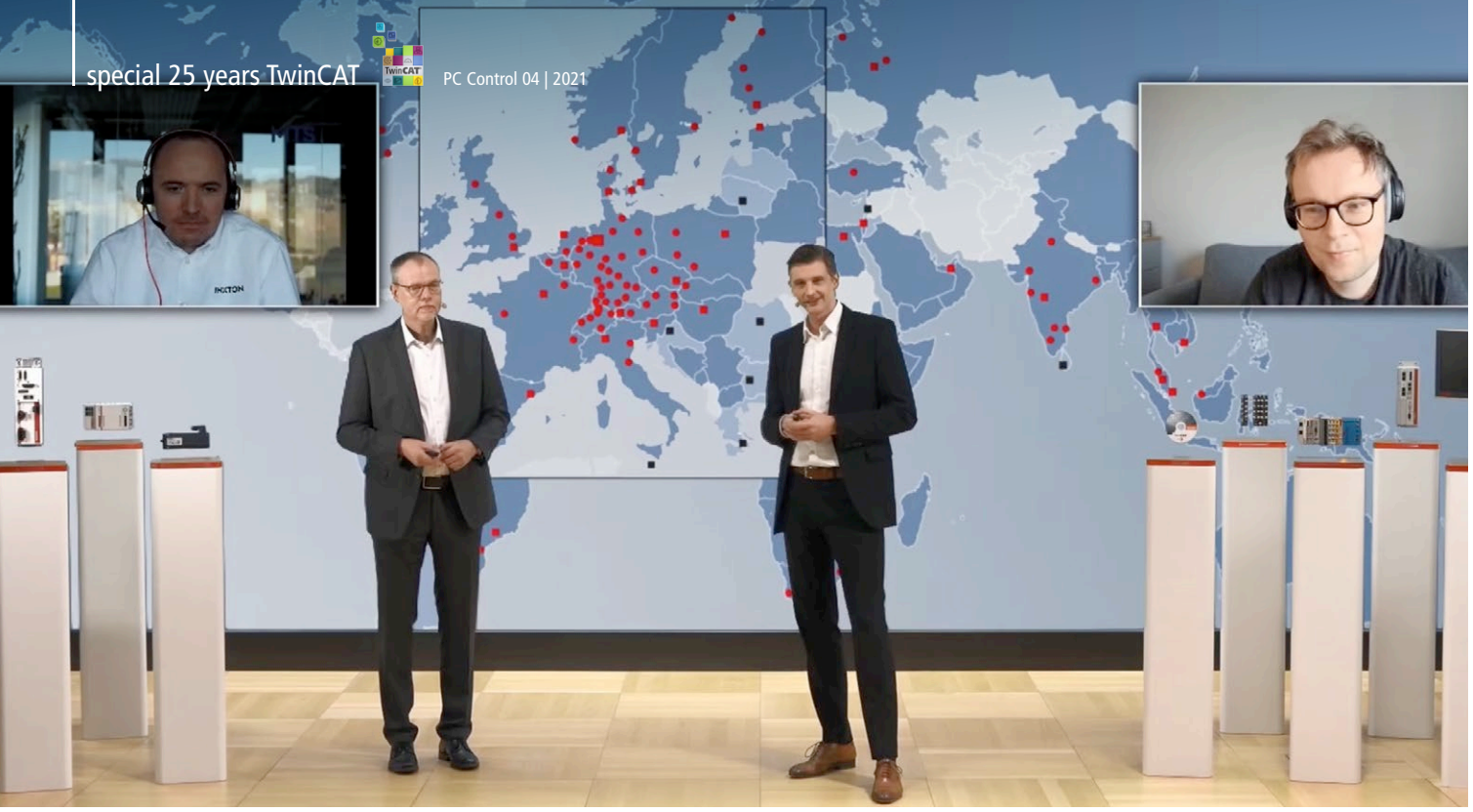

Virtual roundtable discussion at last year's SPS Connect with user experts Peter Kurhajec (left) from MTS and Jakob Sagatowski (right) from Dry Phase Patterning

Users confirm TwinCAT is a future-oriented software platform

Openness, consistency, comprehensive functionality and, above all, the connection between IT and automation technology (AT) are the key features that users value in TwinCAT 3 as a future-oriented software platform. This was confirmed by Peter Kurhajec from Slovakian machine manufacturer MTS and Jakob Sagatowski from Dry Phase Patterning, a Swedish manufacturer of systems for electronic circuitry manufacturing, during an expert panel discussion at SPS Connect 2020 and during the concurrent Interactive Automation Days held by Beckhoff.

Peter Kurhajec, Technical Director for the TwinCAT 3-based engineering platform Inxton and CTO of MTS, sees the following TwinCAT advantages, among others: "When Beckhoff introduced the integration of TwinCAT in Visual Studio®, this was exactly the solution we were looking for in terms of software development. With TwinCAT 3, Beckhoff breaks the barrier between the IT and AT worlds in a way that no other platform currently does. TwinCAT optimally supports our idea of bringing PLC and the higher-level-framework .Net together. It helps us develop applications for Inxton faster. Compared to using other technologies, we only need a fraction of the time. Another crucial factor for efficient and reliable software development is that TwinCAT is a truly open platform and can be integrated with version control. This is especially true for larger development teams and makes our daily work much easier. Compared to other platforms, TwinCAT already represents the future from our point of view, for example, with the machine learning functionality, which is very interesting for us."

Jakob Sagatowski, Software Engineer at Dry Phase Patterning and operator of the AllTwinCAT user blog and a corresponding Youtube channel, benefits from TwinCAT 3 in the following way particularly: "I originally came from IT development and therefore mostly used C++, Java and other IT languages. The more I worked with TwinCAT 3, the more fascinated I was because all development previously carried out in C++ could now be realized much faster. A good example, and one of the most exciting projects I have worked on, is the Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) in Chile. For one subsystem of the primary mirror of the ELT we used 132 identical PLCs. Modern software development practices and supporting tools are no longer only available for the IT-world, but we could also utilize this for the ELT PLC software. And this is possible with TwinCAT, for example, with the help of the Automation Interface and the integrated static code analysis. TwinCAT's future orientation can be seen in the wide range of functions that are continuously integrated. Dry Phase Patterning, for example, is already successfully using TwinCAT Vision and TwinCAT HMI."

More information:

www.inxton.com

www.dppatterning.com

www.alltwincat.com

www.youtube.com/jakobsagatowski

www.beckhoff.com/interactive-automation-days