HMS has acquired Ixxat Automation

HMS Industrial Networks (Sweden) has acquired Ixxat Automation (Germany), which is a supplier of communication technology for industrial automation, machine manufacturing and the automotive industry.

From left to right: Staffan Dahlström (CEO of HMS Industrial Networks AB), Prof.-Dr.*Konrad Etschberger (founder Ixxat Automation GmbH), Christian Schlegel (Managing Director Ixxat Automation GmbH)*

IXXAT (FORMER STEINBEIS TRANSFERZENTRUM Prozessautomatisierung) was founded in 1987 and is headquartered in Weingarten. It is an early member of CAN in Automation (CiA) international users' and manufacturers' group. While Ixxat is known as a supplier of CAN-based as well as Ethercat, Powerlink and Flexray communication technology, HMS has a position in the Profibus and Profinet as well as DeviceNet and Ethernet/IP markets. Together, the two companies will have a complete and competitive offer of communication technology for the automation markets. Ixxat's position on the German market will widen the customer-base of the HMS group and will allow cross-selling of the existing product lines. Ixxat provides solutions for emerging functional Safety technology for automation including solutions for Opensafety, CIP-Safety and Functional Safety over Ethercat. In combination with HMS's Anybus Safety concept focused on Profisafe, the HMS group will have a broad offer for functional Safety solutions. HMS's development resources will be strengthened by Ixxat's engineers. The acquisition also gives HMS the opportunity to market their products towards additional segments such as medical equipment and the automotive industry.

HMS's worldwide sales channels will give Ixxat access to a wider market. In addition, the experience of the Swedish company within manufacturing and logistics will also provide opportunities for improved efficiency and profitability. "Together Ixxat and HMS will become an industrial communication group with 350 employees and sales of more than 50 million € – a world market leader in our industry", says Staffan Dahlström, CEO at HMS. "Ixxat's hi-tech products and services are great supplements to HMS's business," adds Staffan Dahlström. "Their strong position especially on the German automation market will strengthen our presence in Central Europe. Together with our subsidiary in Karlsruhe, Ixxat will reinforce HMS in Germany - the world's leading market for industrial communication solutions."

"We see great opportunities to further widen the market for our product offering by getting access to HMS's well-established global sales channels," says Christian Schlegel, Managing Director Ixxat Automation. "HMS's hi-tech product platforms will also be great assets for our ongoing development projects and for new technologies."

"With our team of 30 people located in Karlsruhe and Mulhouse (France) we are serving our customers in the German and French-speaking automation markets", says Michael Volz, General Manager of HMS Industrial Networks in Karlsruhe. "Together with the Ixxat team in Weingarten, we will broaden our offer of standard communication products and can extend the services of our Solution Center for customized connectivity solutions." Ixxat has a turnover of 14 million € and employs 85 people of whom 50 are product development engineers. The company offers software and hardware solutions for CAN, a number of industrial Ethernet standards and IEEE 1588, Flexray, and LIN. They also offer customized hardware components within embedded sub-systems as well as embedded system solutions for industrial, medical, power generation and automotive markets. The company also develops technology platforms within safety solutions, according to IEC 61508. The manufacturer has subsidiaries in the USA and France and sells its products via distributors in 25 countries.

HMS is a supplier of products for industrial communication including remote management. It develops and manufactures solutions for connecting automation devices and systems to industrial networks under the Anybus and Netbiter brands. Development and manufacturing take place at the headquarters in Halmstad. Local sales and support are handled by branch offices in China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, UK, and USA. The company employs over 260 people and reported sales of 42,5 million € in 2011. Provider's operations in Central Europe are managed from Karlsruhe (Germany).