CiA in Poland: only a few members

Currently, CAN in Automation (CiA) has three members with headquarters in Poland: Diga, Obrum Gliwice, and Polchip. For several years CiA has supported Obrum in organizing the biannual Polish CAN conference.

Links
www.diga.biz.pl
www.obrum.gliwice.pl
www.polchip.pl

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CAN Newsletter Online
5th CAN conference in Poland

This year the "Konferenzja CAN" happens for the 6th time on September 18th and 19th. For the first time the event will not take place in the health resort town of Ustrón close to the Czech and Slovakian boarder but at the Arsenal Palace Hotel in Chorzów, which is a city in Silesia in southern Poland, near Katowice. Chorzów is one of the central districts of the Upper Silesian Metropolitan Union – a metropolis with a population of 2 million. At the conference, CAN experts and newcomers gather to exchange knowledge and experiences. One of the main objectives is to bring researchers and industries together. Obrum, member of CiA since 2006, once again organizes the conference "Application of the CAN bus in military and civilian technology" providing a platform for exchanging information between representatives of three complementary areas of activity: industry, research and development centers, as well as scientific centers, and last but not least producers/distributors of devices and equipment using CAN. CiA's managing director Holger Zeltwanger is a member of the program committee of the conference and also a speaker.

At the 5th CAN conference in Poland, Diga presented its CANstudio 3, a CANopen analyzing and configuration tool. After asking Jacek Barcik from Diga why the company became a CiA member back in 2008, he said it was to be
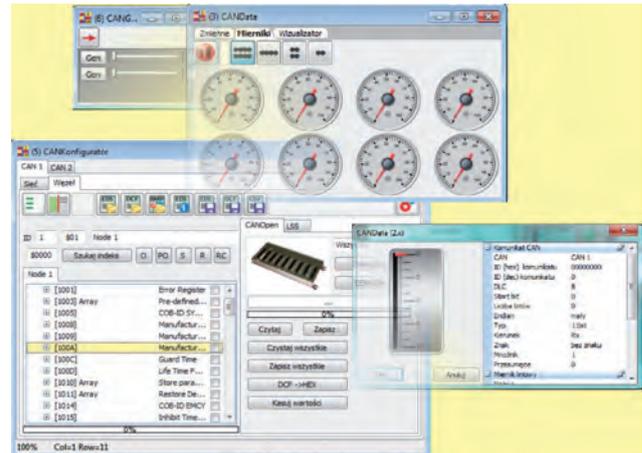

Figure 1: The CANstudio 3 is suitable for configuration, diagnostic, and service purposes; it can interpret CANopen protocols (Photo: Diga)

up to date on what is new about CAN and CANopen all the time and also to get a CANopen vendor-ID "free-of-charge". This vendor-ID is part of the object 1018_h and identifies the manufacturer of a device uniquely. It must be implemented in all CANopen devices. Jacek Barcik also said another reason to became a member was to get access to all CiA specifications. Diga is a manufacturer of CAN tools and customized CAN interface boards. The company also offers CAN training and R&D and is a distributor of controllers from Intercontrol for mobile use and CANopen products from Microcontrol in Poland. The application fields are transportation (off-highway vehicles), manufacturing (embedded machine control), construction (road construction machines, building construction machines), agriculture, and forestry (tractor, forest harvester). One of the company's products is the ▷

Figure 2: The Ibis is a six-wheels robot for pyrotechnic and combat missions (Photo: PIAP institute)

CRUSB – CAN/USB converter. It is designed for translating information from CAN to data stream transferred via USB. Due to its plastic casing and low energy consumption it is suited for use with mobile computers. The interface dongle provides two precise timestamps both for received and transmitted CAN frames. A free-of-charge CAN-Monitor and a DLL library are available. The company also offers the already mentioned CANstudio software tool, which can be used for configuration, diagnostic, and monitoring of CAN networks. On demand a CANopen node and custom software protocol are available. The tool can be used in conjunction with the CAN/USB dongle. With the tool one can build a multi-nodes CAN network virtually and save it on disk.

The third CiA member, Polchip, joined the nonprofit association in 2012. The company offers consulting, installation and service of parking systems, and solutions for parking management: for example single space counting, license plate recognition, lightning management. It also provides ticketing solutions for public and private transport and rail operations. According to the company, it still plans to only use CAN/CANopen in its parking systems.

Polish CAN applications

Poland, a member of the European Union since 2004, has some industries using CAN networks. Polish universities have also used CAN in many academic research projects. Two important markets are military and civil service robots, which were presented several times at CAN conferences organized by Obrum.

This company also offers tanks that use embedded CANopen networks. The PIAP industrial research institute for automation and measurements in Warsaw has developed several counter-terrorism robots, e.g. for removing explosives.

The 39-million people country is quite interested in CAN technology: 1,6 percent of the CAN Newsletter Online readers are from Poland. This corresponds to place 13 in the worldwide list. "We know that some Polish companies use CAN in rail vehicles and in maritime electronics," said Holger Zeltwanger from CiA. Pesa, for example, has developed a diesel trainset with embedded CANopen networks. The company has also manufactured 120 trams using CANopen networks for the city of Moscow (Russia).

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