

## **BACnet products become even more reliable**

### **16 companies tested interoperability at the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Plugfest**

**At their second European “Plugfest” the BACnet Interest Group Europe (BIG-EU) was able to record a 50% increase in the number of participants. The BIG-EU initiated the “Plugfest” in order to promote the efficient interaction of BACnet products and compliance with the BACnet norm. A total of 35 developers from 16 different building automation companies met between 9th and 11th May 2005. The “Plugfest” was organized by WSPLab in Stuttgart.**

“Manufacturers have learnt”, says Frank Bitter from WSPLab about the quality of the tested devices. “BACnet communication between devices functions smoother than before. Interoperability has improved noticeably – a sign of increased reliability”. Digital control systems were the most common elements of the test installations. There were also servo drives, frequency converters, workstations, BACnet gateways and other devices used in building automation.

The participants came from Finland, England, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland and Germany as well as Canada, the USA and Australia. With the aim of product and system optimization, they checked how their devices communicate in a network and tested prototypes. Participating companies were: ABB Drives, Alerton, Andover Controls, Axeda Systems, CA Computer Automation, Delta Controls, GFR, Honeywell (2 Teams), Johnson Controls, Kieback&Peter, Priva Building Intelligence, Sauter-Cumulus, SE-Elektronic, Siemens Building Technologies and Trend Controls.

The response to the Plugfest is extremely positive. The open exchanges between colleagues helps to further optimize BACnet communication between devices. Bill Swan, Chairman of the permanent BACnet Committee SSPC 135 at ASHRAE, confirmed a “huge advance in BACnet communication”. For him, coming from the American Plugfest tradition, the BIG-EU event was “the best Plugfest of all time”.



**About the BIG-EU:**

The BACnet Interest Group Europe e. V. (BIG-EU) promotes the application of the worldwide BACnet communication protocol ISO 16484-5 in European building automation and safety engineering. It was founded in 1998 by 18 companies dealing with building automation. Today it has 50 members from Belgium, Germany, England, Finland, France, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland and the USA. The BIG-EU represents European interests in the worldwide development of the BACnet standard. Therefore, the BIG-EU interacts with the American BACnet Manufacturer Association (BMA) and the ASHRAE Standing Standard Project Committee SSPC 135, which is assigned by the ISO the care of the BACnet standard. The BIG-EU increases BACnet knowledge in Europe with common marketing and qualification offers. For further information see [www.big-eu.org/](http://www.big-eu.org/).

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