



BCIA President Ian Ellis during his opening-speech at the BACnet-Forum in London

BACnet Forum in London

BACnet strengthens its market position in building automation

Proprietary systems on the decline – Differences in the European market

Dortmund/London, 8 June, 2011 – "Increasing the Value of Properties with BACnet" was the topic of the first BACnet Forum in London from 11 to 13 April. Around 130 participants from leading manufacturers, developers and users in the field of building automation took advantage of the opportunity to discuss the latest technical developments and to agree on a new strategy for establishing BACnet as the leading standard for building automation.

Leading Industry representatives such as Volker Röhl, President of the BACnet Interest Group Europe (BIG-EU), and Ian Ellis, president of the Building Controls Industry Association, BCIA, illustrated the successful history and the prospects for BACnet and other open communication standards. Frank Mills of the British Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers, CIBSE, recognized in BACnet the future of networked building automation.

Increasing market share

Jeremy Towler, chief market researcher at the Building Services Research and Information Association (BSRIA), stressed the importance of BACnet in worldwide building automation in



his speech. "Since the first development of open communications protocols around 24 years ago, the market share of proprietary protocols fell to 45 percent in Europe and below 25 percent in North America. Along with it, the market share for BACnet rose to 24 percent in Europe and 47 percent in North America." At the same time he also pointed to existing differences on the European markets. While in Belgium, Germany, France and Italy, proprietary systems are at 40 percent and below, their share in the British market is the highest at 75 percent.

15 percent growth

Towler projected 15 percent annual growth for BACnet systems over the next five years. In the long run BACnet is in a strong position. While the currently market dominating proprietary standards are increasingly losing importance, BACnet is on the way to becoming the general standard – for the entire field of building services, including safety and security systems, elevators, access control, smart grids, etc.

The forum concluded with a well-attended networking cocktail reception. The participants agreed that an important milestone for the establishment of BACnet in Great Britain had been set. Other joint activities such as a common organization of the next BACnet Plugfests have already been proposed.

The next BACnet Forum will take place on 10 November in Hong Kong. More information can be found at: www.bacnetforum.org

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 90 members from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. Goals of the BIG-EU include representing European interests in the development of BACnet standards and the exchange of information with the permanent BACnet committee SSPC 135 of ASHRAE and with the American BACnet Manufacturer Association (BMA). Additional goals include common marketing, qualification offers and the collective formulation of technical guidelines. For further information please visit: www.big-eu.org.

Press contact: MarDirect, Dortmund,
Bruno Kloubert, E-Mail: kloubert@mardirect.de, Tel. +49 231 427867-31