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Press Release

Test ECUs from the comfort of your own desk

- ETAS releases LABCAR in compact desktop format
- DESK-LABCAR enables extensive Hardware-in-the-Loop (HiL) testing in early development phases
- Scalable entry-level version with open system architecture

Stuttgart, June 24, 2014 – Early testing with the target hardware eliminates errors, gives developer teams confidence, and eases the pressure during the crunch period in which hundreds of subsystems come together to form a complete vehicle. After all, faults that are discovered late in the development process are costly and time-intensive to repair.

So that ECU developers will be able to carry out initial tests from the comfort of their own desks, ETAS is now releasing the successful LABCAR testing system in desktop format. The compact and attractively-priced DESK-LABCAR system offers the familiar testing environment from established LABCAR-RTPC (Real-Time PC) technology. It allows developers to test ECU configurations in early development phases and means they do not have to wait around until a full-scale LABCAR system becomes available – a significant time saving given the amount of people wanting to use LABCAR systems in most laboratories.

The compact testing system is based on high-quality components taken from the full-scale laboratory solution and is enclosed within a redesigned PC housing. With its built-in breakout adapter, which provides easy access to relevant hardware interfaces, during testing users can connect up measuring instruments or interrupt lines from the comfort of their desks.

Scalable and future-proof

“A main priority during development was to ensure full consistency between the compact DESK-LABCAR and its bigger laboratory sibling,” says ETAS product manager Thomas Lenzen. “The ability to reuse existing tests is guaranteed even after upgrading the system. In addition, the system architecture is open, meaning that users carrying out tests at their desks can use their simulation tools from third-party providers and retain their habitual workflows.”

DESK-LABCAR is fully scalable, and software upgrades ensure that the system grows along with developers’ needs. Should these requirements expand beyond the capacities of the DESK-LABCAR system, existing hardware and software can be simply integrated into bigger LABCAR versions thanks to the modular concept. This also guarantees compatibility with legacy test artifacts. As a result, new customers who buy the entry-level compact version of LABCAR in the first instance have the peace of mind of knowing that they have a protected investment on which they can build.

The accompanying software bundle permits open-loop measurements: developers manually feed signals into the system and generate results from the feedback. Software upgrades also make it possible for users to carry out classic closed-loop real-time simulations and automated fault detection from their desks.

With the ES5340 Electric Drive Simulation Board (Multi I/O), DESK-LABCAR has four analog and 20 digital input channels along with eight analog and eight digital outputs. Further interface boards and CAN and LIN bus adapters can be added to the system if desired. The result is a compact solution designed to carry out a wide range of testing tasks during the ECU development process. This is good news, because the amount of testing required is growing all the time on account of the proliferation of control units in modern vehicles. With the cost-effective DESK-LABCAR solution, development engineers can stay on top of this growing workload and systematically root out bugs in control units at an early stage.

ETAS GmbH

ETAS provides innovative solutions for the development of embedded systems for the automotive industry and other sectors of the embedded industry.

As a systems provider, ETAS supplies a multifaceted portfolio that covers the range from integrated tools and tool solutions to engineering services, consulting, training, and support. Security solutions in the area of embedded systems are offered by the ETAS subsidiary ESCRYPT. Established in 1994, ETAS GmbH is a 100-percent subsidiary of the Bosch Group, with international subsidiaries and sales offices in 13 countries in Europe, North and South America, and Asia.

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