

# Press Release

## PLCnext Technology: Festo and Phoenix Contact enter into strategic technology partnership

(04/24) Festo, manufacturer of pneumatic and electrical automation technology, will use PLCnext Technology, the open ecosystem for modern automation from Phoenix Contact, in future intelligent devices. This will combine the innovative strength of both companies with the aim of taking industrial automation to a new level. The new product generation is expected to be launched at the end of the year. The integration of PLCnext Technology opens up a wide range of opportunities for Festo and its customers:

1. Openness and flexibility: PLCnext Technology is based on an open architecture that allows individual solutions to be developed and existing systems to be seamlessly integrated. Festo can therefore offer customized automation solutions for specific customer requirements.
2. Utilization of synergies: The combination of know-how from the two companies enables profitable cooperation in order to be able to solve future technological challenges - such as in the area of cybersecurity - in the best possible way.
3. Innovation and future viability: The combination of Festo's expertise in automation and PLCnext Technology promises innovative solutions for Industry 4.0. By working together and pooling resources, the challenges of digital transformation can be mastered together.

The common goal of Festo and Phoenix Contact is to meet the requirements arising from the convergence of IT and OT (Information Technology and Operations Technology) in industry through open automation solutions.

“In a rapidly changing world, it is becoming increasingly important to enter into partnerships and work together within the framework of open technology platforms. A paradigm shift is clearly noticeable. Together with Festo, we will continue to work on generating new solutions for our customers. Because sustainable innovation can only be achieved through close cooperation,” emphasizes Frank Stührenberg, CEO of Phoenix Contact.

Festo, a leading company in the industry, has opted for PLCnext Technology. Festo has been looking for a partner with an open system approach for its future direction, who will provide an appropriate operating system, develop it further, and launch it on the market.

"With PLCnext Technology, we are using the technologically leading platform in automation technology. We are convinced that the openness of PLCnext Technology will provide our customers with many advantages," emphasizes Gerhard Borho, Chief Information Technology and Digitalization

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Officer at Festo. Ulrich Leidecker, COO and President of the Business Area Industry Management and Automation at Phoenix Contact, adds: "The openness of PLCnext Technology opens up the possibility for numerous suppliers to offer flexible, safe and modern automation technology. The technology partnership with Festo represents a milestone for the automation industry. Because the more partners there are in an open automation ecosystem, the more valuable it becomes for each individual participant."

The collaboration between Festo and Phoenix Contact is an important step for the future of the automation industry. New, open thinking and the bringing together of industry expertise sets the course for innovative solutions and drives a sustainable world forward.

### **About Phoenix Contact:**

Under a global umbrella brand, Phoenix Contact offers innovative products, solutions and digitalization expertise for the electrification, networking, and automation of all sectors of the economy and infrastructure. The family-owned company thus enables industry and society to transform into a sustainable world with long-term growth prospects for all.

Phoenix Contact currently employs around 21,000 people and generated sales of EUR 3.4 billion in 2023. Production takes place worldwide in a production network in 11 countries with varying degrees of vertical integration. The Phoenix Contact Group has more than 50 international sales companies that ensure proximity to the markets and customers. With pioneering connection and automation technology, Phoenix Contact develops solutions for the world of tomorrow together with customers and partners. The holistic concepts including engineering and services are used, for example, in transportation infrastructure, e-mobility, water management systems, renewable energies and intelligent supply networks or in energy-efficient mechanical and plant engineering.

### **PLCnext Technology**

PLCnext Technology is the open ecosystem for industrial automation from Phoenix Contact. With its combination of open control technology, modular engineering software and online community, this solution enables easy adaptation to changing requirements and efficient use of existing and future software services. Together with a digital marketplace for software and systemic cloud integration, PLCnext Technology is up to the challenges of the IoT world.

[www.plcnext-community.net](http://www.plcnext-community.net)

### **About Festo:**

Festo SE & Co. KG is a global player and an independent family-owned company headquartered in Esslingen am Neckar, Germany. The company supplies pneumatic and electrical automation technology to 300,000 factory and process automation customers in over 35 industries. Its products

**Phoenix Contact • Corporate Communications • Eva von der Weppen M.A.  
e-mail:eweppe@phoenixcontact.com • Phone +49 5235 3-41713**

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and services are available in 176 countries. Festo offers solutions for predictive maintenance, predictive quality and predictive energy with its AI-based software suite Festo AX and a mobile and digital maintenance management system with its software as a service product Smartenance.

[www.festo.com](http://www.festo.com)