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### **Modular Switch Delivers Performance and Flexibility for Manufacturing and Industrial Environments**

N-Tron, the industrial network experts, today announced its new 7900 fully managed industrial Ethernet switch. Designed for use in manufacturing and industrial environments, the 7900 is a four-slot modular switch that provides flexibility, performance and monitoring, as well as specialized features to enhance communications.

Supporting up to 24 10/100 plus two additional Gigabit Ethernet ports, the 7900 switch delivers a wide variety of flexible fiber/copper port options through its modular platform. Easy-to-use configuration and monitoring tools – including a Command Line Interface, web browser or N-Tron’s N-View OPC software – enable customers to seamlessly manage network switches. The 7900 also includes VLAN, QoS, trunking (link aggregation), port mirroring and automatic IGMP configuration to optimize network performance.

In addition to UL approval for use in Class I, Div. 2 hazardous locations, the following 7900 features meet the specialized needs of manufacturing and industrial environments:

- EtherNet/IP™ CIP messaging – allows the 7900 switch to communicate configuration and monitoring data to HMI displays on the factory floor
- N-Ring and N-Link –provides a redundant path allowing dynamic failover to ensure maximum uptime between one or more rings
- Port security – allows users to enter MAC addresses that can access the switch, limiting access to provide greater security
- Integrated DHCP server – automatically assigns IP addresses, eliminating the need for a separate DHCP server to reduce complexity and cost
- Configuration backup – allows switch configurations to be backed up using an optional SD card, providing faster recovery and easier configuration of additional switches
- Link Layer Discovery Protocol (LLDP) – enables easy communication and discovery between devices from different vendors in the same network

“Our 7900 industrial Ethernet switch is built to withstand harsh conditions while also meeting the needs of manufacturing applications,” said Diane Davis, vice president of product management at N-Tron. “The combination of a modular DIN-rail form factor with flexible fiber/copper port configuration options and monitoring tools make the 7900 ideal for customers looking to enhance communications on both factory floors and in extreme industrial environments.”

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**Desigo V5: Innovations from Siemens increase building efficiency**

The Siemens Building Technologies Division has introduced version 5 of its Desigo building automation system. Its innovative products such as Total Room Automation as well as efficiency features, like RoomOptiControl and Eco Monitoring, give building operators and users an active role in energy management, leading to permanent reductions in energy and maintenance costs. A state-of-the-art building automation system is always optimized for energy-efficient operation. However, these optimized settings may start to drift over time. One of the underlying causes is often a lack of transparency for users who simply don't know how the setpoint changes they make can impact energy consumption. This is particularly true for air-conditioned rooms which are also equipped with lighting and sun protection controls. The new version of Desigo keeps room users and building operators apprised of the building's efficiency status. Feedback to users is given using the innovative Green Leaf display, adapted to the expertise and control options of each user group. The system makes it possible to change settings if needed to restore optimal energy efficiency. A study by Technische Universität München (TUM) indicates that by actively involving operators and users in the energy management of a building, energy consumption can be reduced by up to 25% without affecting comfort.

**Total Room Automation offers energy savings without reducing comfort**

The open, programmable room automation range Desigo Total Room Automation (TRA) is a holistic solution encompassing the HVAC, lighting and shading disciplines. Desigo TRA uses an innovative efficiency feature called RoomOptiControl. It automatically detects unnecessary energy consumption in the room and notifies users by changing the color of the Green Leaf icon on the QMX3 room control unit: If room operations are energy efficient, this icon is green. If settings made by a room user lead to unnecessary energy consumption, the icon turns red. To reset room control to energy efficient operation, the user simply presses the display and the Green Leaf icon returns to green.

Using BACnet/IP, PXC3 room automation stations—also part of the TRA package—are integrated seamlessly into the PX automation level with its primary systems (heating generators, HVAC main units and cooling generators). The primary systems are controlled directly through the demand signals from the rooms. This means that the primary systems are only turned on if needed and their operation is adjusted so it meets the room requirements without exceeding them. One room automation station can cover multiple rooms. TRA offers complete integration of KNX, DALI and EnOcean devices; existing or new sensors and actuators from Siemens can be incorporated as well.

**Eco Monitoring to reduce energy consumption and wear**

Eco Monitoring is another innovative efficiency feature of Desigo. It monitors ongoing operations of HVAC systems based on energy-related quality condition indicators such as readings from temperature, humidity and pressure sensors, runtime, switching behavior and operational performance of the systems. Should deviations from the target state, inefficient operations or increased energy consumption occur, the building operator is notified via the Green Leaf display on the Desigo Insight management station. Current and future international standards (such as EN 15323:2007) require such a feature in order to optimize building operations over the long term.

Desigo Eco Monitoring not only helps optimize energy consumption, it also reduces wear.

Thanks to its dynamic behavior and timely reporting, the Eco Monitoring feature recognizes

unfavorable system operations early on, allowing operators to intervene immediately before any negative impact occurs. If desired, operators can choose to be notified of unusual events via text messaging (SMS), fax or e-mail.

Expanded networking of the automation level

Starting with version 5, Desigo also offers expanded end-to-end networking of the automation level. Enhanced support for communications standards ensures efficient system integration.

The PXC series of compact automation stations has a higher number of universal inputs/outputs, which makes them much more flexible. To protect existing investments, different device generations, such as PTM and TX I/O modules and RXC room controllers, can be used in parallel on the same PX automation station.