Where are we headed? What’s next for technology? What do you need to bear in mind in the future to keep up? We have been working to collect your experiences and expectations. Here are the results of our survey.
QUESTION 1

Which technical trends in machine automation do you consider to be the most important for development in the coming years? (Multiple answers possible)

- Use of decentralized drive technology: 58%
- Web-based operator concept (e.g., HMI on mobile devices): 39%
- Pre-simulation of the automated machine: 35%
- IPC-based control concept with integrated safety technology: 23%
- Automated recipe management and format changeover: 23%
- Other: 4%

The most important trends in 2018
QUESTION 2

How important to you is the engineering support aspect of the drive and automation partner for the development/implementation of a new generation of machines?

The most important trends in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
<td>65.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important</td>
<td>26.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less important</td>
<td>7.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not important at all</td>
<td>3.85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
QUESTION 3

Where do you see the need for optimization in the automation of your machines? (Multiple answers possible)

- **Safety and security**: 50%
- **Drive technology**: 13%
- **Control concept**: 29%
- **Operator and service concepts**: 54%
- **Modularization and standardization of software**: 63%
QUESTION 4

Which drive system do you use in your machines?

Central drive system: 21.74%

Decentralized drive system: 26.09%

Mixed approach: 60.87%
QUESTION 5

How important are safe motion functions (e.g. safe speed, safe positioning, etc.) for you in your machines?

- Very important: 56.52%
- Important: 30.43%
- Less important: 8.7%
- Not important at all: 4.35%
QUESTION 6

Which solutions and technologies implemented in your machines would bring real added value to your (end) customers? (Multiple answers possible)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solution</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Web-based operator concept (use of mobile devices such as tablets and smartphones etc.)</td>
<td>37.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe access during active machine operation (e.g. during set-up or cleaning)</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition monitoring and preventive maintenance</td>
<td>41.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual reality service and diagnostics capabilities</td>
<td>37.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simplified maintenance and replacement concepts (e.g. automatic firmware download in the event of device replacement)</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ready-made/simplified connection to company networks (incl. cloud connection)</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>04.17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONCLUSION

THE MOST IMPORTANT TRENDS IN MACHINE AUTOMATION IN 2018

Pre-simulation for automated machines is clearly the key trend most people are interested in. Engineering support is also very important, while improvements can be made to modularization and standardization of software. Most machinery manufacturers use a combination of centralized and decentralized drive systems, and simplified maintenance and replacement concepts are seen as delivering real added value.

We understand that machine automation requirements do not just vary from sector to sector – even within one sector, a wide range of application-specific expectations and demands have to be addressed. Our MOVIKIT® software modules are perfect for these diverse challenges – optimized to suit your applications and open to interfaces within your own application architecture.

How can we help you with your machine automation needs?

Feel free to contact us:
machine.automation@sew-eurodrive.de