

Partners, Endress+Hauser and Rockwell Automation, make major investment in Purdue Engineering Tech program

The Purdue Integrated Process Education System (PIPES) laboratory was fully designed and implemented through collaboration of industry professionals, faculty and a group of seniors from the Purdue Manufacturing Engineering Technology program.

May 8, 2015—The Manufacturing Engineering Technology (MFET) students and faculty in the Purdue School of Engineering Technology celebrated the joint creation and development of the Purdue Integrated Process Education System (PIPES) laboratory during an open house hosted at the West Lafayette, Ind., campus on Friday, May 8th.

Through the generous support and donations from industry partners Endress+Hauser; Rockwell Automation; George E. Booth Co., Inc.; Kirby Risk Corporation and other suppliers (American Melt Blown and Filtration, Artek, Inc., BMWC Constructors, Lester Sales Company, Complete Controls, Hoffman, Samson Controls, Inc., Smith-Cooper International, StoneL, and Wilken Enterprises), Purdue University will be the new home to a state-of-the-practice process education lab for students.

Donations to Purdue University included process measurement instrumentation, a control system, control panels, servers, hardware, piping, large industrial water tanks, pumps, valves, cabling, and engineering guidance.

The fully operational system was designed and constructed during a yearlong capstone project undertaken by senior students of Purdue's Integrated Manufacturing course sequence. Beginning in the fall of 2015, the system will be used to teach process measurement and continuous control, mostly from a technology and implementation perspective.

“Our School of Engineering Technology (SOET) faculty are already in the process of designing the first course that will be available to students in all SOET programs,” said Brad Harriger, MET Professor at Purdue University. “The system will provide a key platform for exploring fundamental concepts of process control in our laboratory,” added Grant Richards, Purdue ECET Professor. The SOET programs include Manufacturing Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology, and Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology.

A long-term goal is for the PIPES lab to be used for summer workshops available to industry – taught by both faculty and industry representatives – where practicing engineers would visit the university for two to five days to learn about and experience process control integration.

By partnering with Purdue University, the supporting companies strive to increase student exposure to fulfilling careers in the process industries and build sustainable industry connections. Many times

students fail to recognize the diverse career choices available to them as new roles emerge through new technologies. Additionally, these academic teaching programs augment hands-on industry competencies and positively impact the problem solving abilities of students through real-world practice. In turn, graduates are more competitive in the job market and have direct connection with the industries they select for their career path.

“We at Endress+Hauser know that talented engineers and technologists have many options for careers,” said Don Cummings, Technical Talent Development Manager, Endress+Hauser. “At the same time, we know that many students don’t know about the process industries that we serve, or the industry that serves them – the process automation and control industry. This Purdue laboratory project took money, and it took products – ours and others’ – but it was the collaborative project aspect of working together that exposes students to our people, the work habits that businesses expect, the culture of mutual achievement that we enjoy together, and sets an example for how creative problem solving can lead to a lifetime of workplace satisfaction.”

“Rockwell Automation has a strong history of effective partnering with companies and schools, and the collaborative nature of this project brings additional richness to the teaching program at Purdue University,” said John Kacsur, Director of Global Accounts and executive sponsor of Purdue at Rockwell Automation. “Professors can use industry cases in the lab and ask students to develop actual applications on a control platform representative of the real world. In designing, fabricating and integrating this project with multiple industry partners, students will also experience the added complexities commonly faced throughout the industry.”

For more information on the Purdue PIPES lab, please visit: www.us.endress.com/Purdue.

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About Endress+Hauser

Endress+Hauser is one of the world's leading suppliers of measuring devices, services and solutions for industrial process engineering. Endress+Hauser supplies sensors, devices, systems and services for level, flow, pressure and temperature measurement as well as liquid analysis and measured value recording. The company supports its customers with automation, logistical and IT services and solutions.

About Rockwell Automation

Rockwell Automation, Inc. (NYSE: ROK), the world’s largest company dedicated to industrial automation and information, makes its customers more productive and the world more sustainable. Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis., Rockwell Automation employs about 21,000 people serving customers in more than 80 countries.

About the Purdue School of Engineering Technology

The School of Engineering Technology was formed in December 2013 through the consolidation of the departments of Mechanical Engineering Technology and Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology and now offers nine programs, including one at the master’s level. Through these programs, students learn about and practice designing, building, testing and refining, and they use class projects to discover how to use the right materials, the right sensors and electronic parts, and the right processes to develop products and systems that work efficiently and are attractive to consumers.

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