

Interview

Hübschmann: Elevators Featuring Integrated Future-Oriented Technology

Hübschmann Aufzüge GmbH & Co KG in Korbach has 130 employees and has been manufacturing its own elevators as well as components for other manufacturers' elevators for over 40 years. In addition, this medium-sized family business provides complete coverage in the service area. The fact that the company has its own Design & Development department enables it to implement short-leadtimes and unusual customer requirements. Hübschmann is one of the users of the Bucher Hydraulics intelligent iValve valve technology featuring a CANopen-Lift interface. Christoph Piorek, authorized signatory (,Prokurist') of the elevator specialist in Korbach since 2009, explains how well prepared the company is already for the future networking of elevator components.

Editor: What were your main reasons for choosing the iValve with CANopen-Lift from Bucher Hydraulics?

Christoph Piorek: Modern technology was at the top of the list. The iValve hydraulic drive has intelligent control algorithms and the function of an additional safety valve is already incorporated. Instead of the usual „Turn the screw in by feel“, the adjustment is purely electronic, so the settings are reproducible and easy to document. As well as that, analysis tools such as the travel-curve recorder and data memory make it easier to troubleshoot any problems.



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Christoph Piorek, authorized signatory of Hübschmann Aufzüge GmbH & Co KG in Korbach

Editor: Is this technology, with its networking possibilities, something that you've been waiting for?

Christoph Piorek: Yes, absolutely, because with the increasing use of electronics in elevator construction, the CANopen-Lift standard helps us to use different components from different manufacturers together in one system. In the past, drive systems often required their own hand-held terminal or even a PC for convenient commissioning and service. If our control system can also be used as the operating terminal for the drive, that's a considerable simplification. By operating the elevator via the CANopen-Lift bus, the amount of wiring in the rest of our control system can be reduced to just the safety circuit. The control card is connected to the CAN bus and just runs.

Editor: As an elevator manufacturer, what advantages do you get from the new valve technology in the areas of installation and commissioning and in terms of service and the service concept?

Christoph Piorek: First of all, the preset drives plus their self-learning optimization give fast commissioning at the customer's site, and often there is no need to send a "system specialist" to the site. Given the shortage of skilled workers, this is very important for our company.

What's more, the technology also shows advantages in the service area. Integrating the controller into the bus system allows remote access to the drive system, so a detailed fault analysis is also possible from a distant location. In addition, we can detect possible upcoming faults at an early stage and even before they actually occur. This, in turn, is the basis for us to be able to successfully implement current "hot topics" in the service area such as condition-based maintenance or the even further-reaching predictive maintenance.