control design

FOR MACHINE BUILDERS

CLASS OF
2015

This year's Readers' Choice Awards winners give machine builders and system integrators something to cheer about

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This year's Readers' Choice Awards winners give machine builders and system integrators something to cheer about

by Mike Bacidore, editor in chief

Everyone has a favorite supplier for various components or systems. Those favorites can change over time, too—sometimes due to new features or better service offered by a different supplier. And sometimes the distribution channel itself can be a major factor in where and who to buy. The decision is tricky, but the choice is yours.

Each year, Control Design asks its readers which suppliers are their go-to sources for myriad product categories. The answers vary slightly from time to time, but change comes slowly. This marks the 15th year of the Control Design Readers' Choice Awards.

This year, we sent questionnaires to 17,974 subscribers who tell us they have buying authority or influence for industrial control and automation products. They were offered an unaided ballot that allowed them to rank their first, second and third choices for suppliers in each of 61 product categories.

We do not provide any list of suppliers as guidance, and we do not knowingly count the votes of any suppliers. We also asked the voters to rank the service and support of those companies.

Control Design's voters tell us which companies provide very good (4.0) to excellent (5.0) service in the noted product categories. Only those companies ranking among the top five in a category were tallied.

Rockwell Automation placed in the top spot in 22 categories. National Instuments and Emerson placed first in three categories. Turck, Siemens, Pepperl+Fuchs, Cognex, Cisco and Advantech notched victories in two categories.

To make it easier to find product categories, this year we've grouped them into seven larger categories—Control, Hardware, Motion, Networking, Safety, Sensing and Software. Here's your starting lineup for 2015.

CLASS OF 2015

CONTROL HARDWARE

CONTROLLER, CNC
1. Siemens
2. Fanuc
3. Rockwell
   Bosch Rexroth
   Mitsubishi

CONTROLLER, LOOP
1. Siemens
2. Yokogawa
3. Schneider Electric
4. Rockwell Automation
   Honeywell

CONTROLLER, MOTION
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Bosch Rexroth
4. Parker Hannifin
   Trio Motion

CONTROLLER, PAC
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Schneider Electric
4. GE Intelligent Platforms
5. ABB

CONTROLLER, PLC
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. AutomationDirect
4. GE Intelligent Platforms
5. Schneider Electric

EMBEDDED COMPUTER SYSTEM
1. Advantech
2. Beckhoff Automation
3. Rockwell Automation
4. Siemens
5. Moxa

INDUSTRIAL-GRADE COMPUTER
1. Advantech
2. Rockwell Automation
3. Siemens
4. Beckhoff Automation
5. B&R

CIRCUIT PROTECTION
1. Bussmann
2. Rockwell Automation
3. Siemens
4. ABB
5. Eaton

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR/CORDSET
1. Turck
2. Phoenix Contact
3. Murrelektronik
4. Rockwell Automation
5. Brad-Harrison/
   Woodhead/Molex

INDUSTRIAL ENCLOSURE
1. Hoffman
2. Rittal
3. Saginaw Engineering
4. Hammond
5. Hubbell Wiegmann

INDUSTRIAL ENCLOSURE PURGE SYSTEM
1. Pepperl+Fuchs
2. Rittal
3. Pentair/Hoffman
4. Exair
5. Expo Technologies

OPERATOR INTERFACE
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Red Lion
4. AutomationDirect
5. Maple Systems

PANEL METER
1. Red Lion
2. Rockwell Automation
3. Precision Digital
4. Yokogawa
5. Omron

POWER SUPPLY
1. Emerson/SolaHD
2. Rockwell Automation
3. Phoenix Contact
4. Puls
5. Siemens

RELAY
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Omron
3. IDEC
4. Siemens
5. Schneider Electric

STACK LIGHT TOWER
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Banner Engineering
3. AutomationDirect
4. Patlite
5. Murrelektronik

TERMINAL BLOCKS
1. Phoenix Contact
2. Rockwell Automation
3. Wago
   Weidmüller
5. AutomationDirect

WIRE & CABLING
1. Belden
2. Lapp Group
3. Houston Wire & Cable
4. General Cable
5. Alpha Wire

MOTION

GEAR REDUCER
1. Wittenstein
2. SEW Eurodrive
3. Boston Gear
4. ABB
   Siemens

HYDRAULIC SYSTEM CONTROLS/ COMPONENTS
1. Bosch Rexroth
2. Parker Hannifin
3. Rockwell Automation

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRIC MOTOR
1. ABB/Baldor
2. Regal-Beloit
3. Siemens
4. SEW Eurodrive
5. Rockwell Automation

CLASS OF 2015

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRIC MOTOR DRIVE
1. Rockwell Automation
2. ABB
3. Siemens
4. Yaskawa
5. SEW Eurodrive

LINEAR MOTION ACTUATOR/ SLIDE/GUIDE
1. Thomson Industries
2. Parker Hannifin
3. PHD
4. Festo
5. NSK

MOTOR, SERVO
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Yaskawa
4. Kollmorgen
5. Emerson

MOTOR, STEPPER
1. Parker Hannifin
2. Kollmorgen
3. Festo
4. Siemens
5. Rockwell Automation

MOTOR STARTER
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Schneider Electric
4. ABB
5. Eaton

PNEUMATIC CYLINDER/ACTUATOR
1. Festo
2. SMC
3. Bimba
4. Parker Hannifin
5. PHD

PNEUMATIC SYSTEM CONTROLS/COMPONENTS
1. SMC
2. Festo
3. Emerson/Numatics
4. Parker Hannifin
5. Rockwell Automation

ROBOTS
1. Fanuc
2. ABB
3. Epson
4. Yaskawa
5. Yamaha Robotics

NETWORKING

DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM
1. National Instruments
2. Schneider Electric
3. Rockwell Automation
4. Parker Hannifin
5. Novus Automation

DATA RECORDER
1. National Instruments
2. Yokogawa
3. Schneider Electric
4. Red Lion
5. Siemens

NETWORK COMPONENTS—WIRED
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Belden/Hirschmann
3. Phoenix Contact
4. Cisco
5. Red Lion/N-Tron

NETWORK COMPONENTS—WIRELESS
1. Cisco
2. Phoenix Contact
3. Siemens
4. Belden/Hirschmann
5. Red Lion/N-Tron

NETWORK PROTOCOL CONVERTERS/ BRIDGES/ ADAPTERS
1. B+B SmartWorx
2. Red Lion
3. Rockwell Automation
4. Cisco
5. ProSoft Technologies

NETWORK ROUTERS/SWITCHES
1. Cisco
2. Belden/Hirschmann
3. Red Lion/N-Tron
4. Rockwell Automation
5. Phoenix Contact

INPUT/OUTPUT SYSTEMS
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Wago
3. Beckhoff Automation
4. Siemens
5. Turck

INPUT/OUTPUT, MACHINE-MOUNT
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Turck
3. Siemens
4. Beckhoff Automation
5. Wago

REMOTE MACHINE ACCESS
1. eWon
2. Rockwell Automation
3. Siemens
4. GE Intelligent Platforms

SAFETY

INTRINSIC SAFETY COMPONENTS
1. Pepperl+Fuchs
2. Rockwell Automation
3. Eaton/MTL
4. Turck
5. Banner Engineering

MACHINE SAFETY COMPONENTS
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Banner Engineering
3. Omron STI
4. Sick
5. ABB

CLASS OF 2015

PROGRAMMABLE SAFETY CONTROLLER
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Omron
4. Banner Engineering
5. ABB

SAFETY NETWORK COMPONENTS
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Pilz
4. Sick
5. Banner Engineering

SAFETY RELAY
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Pilz
3. Banner Engineering
4. Siemens
5. ABB

SENSING

LINEAR POSITION SENSOR
1. Turck
2. Balluff
3. Keyence
4. Sick
5. Banner

MACHINE VISION SYSTEM
1. Cognex
2. Keyence
3. Banner Engineering
4. Microscan
5. Teledyne Dalsa

MEASUREMENT, ENCODER/RESOLVER
1. Danaher
2. Sick/Stegmann
3. Rockwell Automation
4. Heidenhain
5. Turck

MEASUREMENT, FLOW
1. Emerson Process Management
2. Endress+Hauser
3. Siemens
4. ifm efector
5. Keyence

MEASUREMENT, LEVEL
1. Endress+Hauser
2. ifm efector

(continued)
3. Emerson Process Management
4. Siemens
5. Vega Americas

MEASUREMENT, LOAD CELL/WEIGHING
1. Mettler Toledo
2. Rice Lake Weighing
3. Hardy Process Systems
4. Avery Weigh-Tronix
5. Omega Engineering

MEASUREMENT, PRESSURE
1. Emerson Process Management
2. Endress+Hauser
3. ifm efector
4. Yokogawa
5. Honeywell/Sensotec

MEASUREMENT, TEMPERATURE
1. JMS Southeast
2. Emerson Process Management
3. Endress+Hauser
4. Omega Engineering
5. Pyromation

MEASUREMENT, VIBRATION
1. GE Energy/Bently Nevada
2. Weidmüller
3. Rockwell Automation
4. Brüel & Kjær
5. National Instruments

PRESENCE SENSING
1. Rockwell Automation
2, Banner Engineering
3. Ifm efector
4. Turck
5. Keyence

RFID/BARCODE READERS
1. Cognex
2. Microscan
3. Balluff
4. Datalogic
5. Keyence

SOFTWARE

SOFTWARE, DATA ACQUISITION
1. National Instruments
2. Schneider Electric
3. Rockwell Automation
4. Siemens
5. AutomationDirect

SOFTWARE, E-CAD
1. Autodesk AutoCAD
2. Eplan
3. Dassault Systems

SOFTWARE, INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens

SOFTWARE, HMI
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Schneider Electric
3. Siemens
4. Red Lion
5. AutomationDirect

SOFTWARE, MOTION CONTROL
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Bosch Rexroth
4. ABB
5. National Instruments

SOFTWARE, PC-BASED MACHINE CONTROL
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Beckhoff Automation
3. National Instruments
4. Siemens
5. Schneider Electric

SOFTWARE, PLC PROGRAMMING
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Schneider Electric
4. AutomationDirect
5. Mitsubishi

SOFTWARE, NETWORK MANAGEMENT
1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Cisco
4. Schneider Electric
5. Belden/Hirschmann

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Customers' Needs

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CLASS OF 2015

The 2015 Readers' Choice Awards

Service and Support Leaders

CONTROL DESIGN's voters tell us these companies provide very good (4.0) to excellent (5.0) service in the noted product categories. Only the top-ranked companies are eligible to be included in the service and support scores.

ABB

Gear Reducer, Machine Safety Components, Motor Starter, Programmable Safety Controller, Robots, Safety Relay

ABB/Baldor

Industrial Electric Motor

Advantech

Embedded Computer System, Industrial-Grade Computer

Alpha Wire

Wire & Cabling

Autodesk

E-CAD Software

AutomationDirect

Data Acquisition Software, HMI Software, Operator Interface, PLC, PLC Programming Software, Terminal Blocks

Avery Weigh-Tronix

Load Cell Weighing Measurement

B+B SmartWorx

Network Protocol Converters/Bridges/Adapters

Balluff

Linear Position Sensor, RFID/Barcode Readers

Banner Engineering

Intrinsic Safety Components, Machine Safety Components, Presence Sensing, Programmable Safety Controller, Safety Relay, Stack Light Tower

Beckhoff Automation

Machine-Mount Input/Output, PC-Based Machine Control Software

Belden/Hirschmann

Network Components—Wired, Network Components—Wireless, Network Router/Switch

Bimba

Pneumatic Cylinder/Actuator

Bosch Rexroth

CNC Controller, Hydraulic System Controls/Components, Motion Control Software, Motion Controller

Boston Gear

Gear Reducer

Bussmann

Circuit Protection

Cisco

Machine Vision System, Network Components— Wired, Network Components—Wireless, Network Protocol Converters/Bridges/Adapters, Network Router/Switch

Cognex

RFID/Barcode Readers

Danaher

Encoder/Resolver

Dassault Systems

E-CAD Software

Datalogic

RFID/Barcode Readers

Emerson Process Management

Flow Management, Level Measurement, Pressure Measurement

Emerson/Control Techniques

Servo Motor

Emerson/Numatics

Pneumatic Systems Controls/Components

Endress+Hauser

Flow Measurement, Level Measurement, Pressure Measurement, Temperature Measurement

Eplan

E-CAD Software

Epson

Robots

eWon

Remote Machine Access

Exair

Industrial Enclosure Purge System

Expo Technologies

Industrial Enclosure Purge System

Fanuc

CNC Controller, Robots

Festo

Linear Motion Actuator/Slide/Guide, Pneumatic Cylinder/Actuator, Stepper Motor

GE Intelligent Platforms

PLC

Hammond

Industrial Enclosure

Hardy Process Systems

Load Cell/Weighing Measurement

Houston Wire & Cable

Wire & Cabling

CLASS OF 2015

The 2015 Readers' Choice Awards

Service and Support Leaders,

ifm efector
Flow Measurement, Level Measurement, Pressure Measurement, Presence Sensing

JMS Southeast
Temperature Measurement

Keyence
Flow Measurement, Linear Position Sensor, Presence Sensing, RFID/Barcode Readers

Kollmorgen
Servo Motor

Maple Systems
Operator Interface

Microscan
Machine Vision System, RFID/Barcode Readers

Murrelektronik
Industrial Electrical Connector/Cordset, Stack Light Tower

National Instruments
Data Acquisition Software, Data Acquisition System, PC-Based Machine Control Software

NSK
Linear Motion Actuator/Slide/Guide

Parker Hannifin
Data Acquisition System, Linear Motion Actuator/Slide/Guide, Motion Controller, Pneumatic Cylinder/Actuator, Stepper Motor

Pentair/Hoffman
Industrial Enclosure Purge System

Pepperl+Fuchs
Industrial Enclosure Purge System

PHD
Linear Motion Actuator/Slide/Guide, Pneumatic Cylinder/Actuator

Phoenix Contact
Network Components—Wired, Network Router/Switch, Power Supply, Terminal Blocks

Pilz
Safety Network Components, Safety Relay

ProSoft Technologies
Network Protocol Converters/Bridges/Adapters

Red Lion
Data Recorder, HMI Software, Network Components—Wireless, Network Protocol Converters/Bridges/Adapters, Network Router/Switch, Panel Meter

Regal-Beloit
Industrial Electric Motor

Rice Lake Weighing
Load Cell/Weighing Measurement

Rittal
Industrial Enclosure

Rockwell Automation
Circuit Protection, Encoder/Resolver, Industrial Electric Motor, Industrial Electrical Connector/Cordset, Industrial-Grade Computer, Input/Output Systems, Integrated Development Platform, Intrinsic Safety Components, Loop Controller, Machine-Mount Input/Output, Machine Safety Components, Motion Control Software, Motion Controller, Motor Starter, Network Management Software, Network Protocol Converters/Bridges/Adapters, PAC, PLC, PLC Programming Software, Power Supply, Presence Sensing, Programmable Safety Controller, Relay, Remote Machine Access, Safety Network Components, Safety Relay, Servo Motor, Terminal Blocks

Saginaw Engineering
Industrial Enclosure

Schneider Electric
Data Acquisition Software, Data Acquisition System, Data Recorder, HMI Software, PLC Programming Software

SEW Eurodrive
Gear Reducer, Industrial Electric Motor, Industrial Electric Motor Drive

Sick
Encoder/Resolver, Linear Position Sensor, Machine Safety Components, Safety Network Components

Siemens
CNC Controller, Embedded Computer System, Gear Reducer, Industrial Electric Motor, Industrial Electric Motor Drive, Industrial-Grade Computer, Loop Controller, Motion Controller, Motor Starter, Network Components—Wireless, PAC, Power Supply, Programmable Safety Controller, Relay, Remote Machine Access, Safety Network Components, Safety Relay

SMC
Pneumatic Systems Controls/Components

Teledyne Dalsa
Machine Vision System

Thomson Industries
Linear Motion Actuator/Slide/Guide

Turck
Encoder/Resolver, Industrial Electrical Connector/Cordset, Intrinsic Safety Components, Linear Position Sensor, Presence Sensing

Wago
Input/Output Systems, Machine-Mount Input/Output, Terminal Blocks

Weidmüller
Terminal Blocks, Vibration Measurement

Wittenstein
Gear Reducer

Yamaha Robotics
Robots

Yaskawa
Industrial Electric Motor Drive, Robots

Yokogawa
Loop Controller