

First FireWire cable for Energy Chains

Industrial applications with up to 400 Mbits/s transmission rate now safe

All those who know about and use digital camera technology will have heard of FireWire cables - Sony's defined standard - as being the connection between the image processing system (computer) and camera. This technology works without any problems with short transmission lengths, which is usually the case in the consumer sector, since there is hardly any movement involved. This cannot be said for industrial uses such as robot applications, however, where Energy Chains guide and protect cables over distances of travel of up to ten metres. In such



Picture PM0905-01: igus GmbH, Cologne

First FireWire cable for moved energy supply in digital camera technology. Used in industry mainly for quality and process monitoring or as a measuring system.

cases, the cables often fail mechanically after as little as two or three metres on account of their structure or they are not in a position to achieve such transmission lengths at all due to their lack of flexibility.

Focus on automation branch

Energy Chain manufacturer igus has now developed the first FireWire cable especially for moved energy supply in chains. First tests on the cables now make industrial energy chain applications with a data volume of up to 400 Mbits per second (transmission rate) possible. At the Hanover Industrial Fair, the Cologne-based company presented its new Chainflex CFBUS.055 FireWire cable to the automation sector.

Special cable structure

The bus pairs and supply wires in the cable are twisted together with particularly flexible shields and an optimised pitch length. The gusset-filling extruded, flame-resistant, TPE outer jacket

provides the protection the cable needs to prevent core ruptures. As well as having UL and CSA approval, the FireWire cable is also DESINA-compliant. Series production will begin at the end of May.

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