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F O R M A C H I N E B U I L D E R S

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 Instruments 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

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

HARDWARE

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

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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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	Beckhoff Automation Machine-Mount Input/Output, PC-Based Machine Control Software	Emerson/Numatics Pneumatic Systems Controls/Components
ABB/Baldor Industrial Electric Motor	Belden/Hirschmann Network Components—Wired, Network Components—Wireless, Network Router/Switch	Endress+Hauser Flow Measurement, Level Measurement, Pressure Measurement, Temperature Measurement
Advantech Embedded Computer System, Industrial-Grade Computer	Bimba Pneumatic Cylinder/Actuator	Eplan E-CAD Software
Alpha Wire Wire & Cabling	Bosch Rexroth CNC Controller, Hydraulic System Controls/Components, Motion Control Software, Motion Controller	Epson Robots
Autodesk E-CAD Software	Boston Gear Gear Reducer	eWon Remote Machine Access
AutomationDirect Data Acquisition Software, HMI Software, Operator Interface, PLC, PLC Programming Software, Terminal Blocks	Bussmann Circuit Protection	Exair Industrial Enclosure Purge System
Avery Weigh-Tronix Load Cell Weighing Measurement	Cisco Machine Vision System, Network Components—Wired, Network Components—Wireless, Network Protocol Converters/Bridges/Adapters, Network Router/Switch	Expo Technologies Industrial Enclosure Purge System
B+B SmartWorx Network Protocol Converters/Bridges/Adapters	Cognex RFID/Barcode Readers	Fanuc CNC Controller, Robots
Balluff Linear Position Sensor, RFID/Barcode Readers	Danaher Encoder/Resolver	Festo Linear Motion Actuator/Slide/Guide, Pneumatic Cylinder/Actuator, Stepper Motor
Banner Engineering Intrinsic Safety Components, Machine Safety Components, Presence Sensing, Programmable Safety Controller, Safety Relay, Stack Light Tower	Dassault Systems E-CAD Software	GE Intelligent Platforms PLC
	Datalogic RFID/Barcode Readers	Hammond Industrial Enclosure
	Emerson Process Management Flow Management, Level Measurement, Pressure Measurement	Hardy Process Systems Load Cell/Weighing Measurement
	Emerson/Control Techniques Servo Motor	Houston Wire & Cable Wire & Cabling

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Service and Support Leaders,

ifm efector Flow Measurement, Level Measurement, Pressure Measurement, Presence Sensing	Phoenix Contact Network Components—Wired, Network Router/Switch, Power Supply, Terminal Blocks	SEW Eurodrive Gear Reducer, Industrial Electric Motor, Industrial Electric Motor Drive
JMS Southeast Temperature Measurement	Pilz Safety Network Components, Safety Relay	Sick Encoder/Resolver, Linear Position Sensor, Machine Safety Components, Safety Network Components
Keyence Flow Measurement, Linear Position Sensor, Presence Sensing, RFID/Barcode Readers	ProSoft Technologies Network Protocol Converters/Bridges/Adapters	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
Kollmorgen Servo Motor	Red Lion Data Recorder, HMI Software, Network Components—Wireless, Network Protocol Converters/Bridges/Adapters, Network Router/Switch, Panel Meter	SMC Pneumatic Systems Controls/Components
Maple Systems Operator Interface	Regal-Beloit Industrial Electric Motor	Teledyne Dalsa Machine Vision System
Microscan Machine Vision System, RFID/Barcode Readers	Rice Lake Weighing Load Cell/Weighing Measurement	Thomson Industries Linear Motion Actuator/Slide/Guide
Murrelektronik Industrial Electrical Connector/Cordset, Stack Light Tower	Rittal Industrial Enclosure	Turck Encoder/Resolver, Industrial Electrical Connector/Cordset, Intrinsic Safety Components, Linear Position Sensor, Presence Sensing
National Instruments Data Acquisition Software, Data Acquisition System, PC-Based Machine Control Software	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	Wago Input/Output Systems, Machine-Mount Input/Output, Terminal Blocks
NSK Linear Motion Actuator/Slide/Guide	Saginaw Engineering Industrial Enclosure	Weidmüller Terminal Blocks, Vibration Measurement
Parker Hannifin Data Acquisition System, Linear Motion Actuator/Slide/Guide, Motion Controller, Pneumatic Cylinder/Actuator, Stepper Motor	Schneider Electric Data Acquisition Software, Data Acquisition System, Data Recorder, HMI Software, PLC Programming Software	Wittenstein Gear Reducer
Pentair/Hoffman Industrial Enclosure Purge System		Yamaha Robotics Robots
Pepperl+Fuchs Industrial Enclosure Purge System		Yaskawa Industrial Electric Motor Drive, Robots
PHD Linear Motion Actuator/Slide/Guide, Pneumatic Cylinder/Actuator		Yokogawa Loop Controller 