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SEW-EURODRIVE provides electrical training equipment to UJ students

Engineering students at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) are gaining a better understanding of conveyor systems, thanks to a joint initiative between international automation expert Festo, and specialist drive engineering company SEW-EURODRIVE.

Festo - a global leader in the supply of automation technology and industrial training and education programmes - installed a prefabricated conveyor system in July 2012, which forms part of a comprehensive workshop that simulates 'real-life' scenarios for the UJ mine engineering students.

SEW-EURODRIVE Drive Academy training specialist **Clive O'Reilly** notes that Festo approached the company to supply its MOVITRAC MC07B variable speed drive to electronically power the system, which is known as a demo unit.

"Festo Didactic supplied the prefabricated conveyor system to UJ as a complete mechanical plug-and-play unit. For the electronic drive option, SEW-EURODRIVE wired the demo unit according to SANS 10142 regulations in terms of safety and electrical design. We also provided detailed electrical drawings and instructions to ensure functionality and we did the installation ourselves," he says.

According to O'Reilly, the demo unit was manufactured and commissioned within four weeks as a result of a strong working relationship between SEW-EURODRIVE, Festo and the University of Johannesburg.

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"Any minor challenges that were encountered during the installation and commissioning process were swiftly resolved, thanks to a mutual understanding between all parties involved."

Since its official establishment in South Africa in 2011, the SEW-EURODRIVE Drive Academy has trained more than 500 people in the application of drive technology. O'Reilly indicates that the Academy has been involved in numerous initiatives similar to the UJ project.

"We recently supplied a training solution to a large Malawi-based manufacturer that uses a number of standardised SEW-EURODRIVE products. The training solution entails a training demo bench with all the standardised products in the plant. In addition to the plug-and-play bench, we also included full product training on all the associated equipment," concludes O'Reilly.

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