# High level of factory availability

Increased productivity as a result of intelligent diagnostics functions and rapid data transmission

## Waldkirch/Hanover, April 2016 – SICK’s exhibit on high level of factory availability demonstrates how information from the AFM60 EtherCAT® absolute encoder can be used as the basis for an analysis tool that enables future faults to be detected in advance. This makes it possible to schedule repairs or maintenance intervals ahead of time – in other words, operate a predictive maintenance system.

If a factory or a machine is to have a high level of availability, preventive maintenance is required. The conveyor belt at the SICK exhibit can be controlled using three speed levels: slow, fast, and very or excessively fast. If the speed falls below or exceeds the defined speed that has been programmed directly in the AFM60 EtherCAT® absolute encoder, the display shows a warning message. Thanks to this system of monitoring the drive, the customer can always operate the plant as effectively as possible and intervene in good time if necessary.

What's more, he is also informed about implementing maintenance intervals in good time. To take a specific example, the display will show a warning once an encoder shaft has been rotating or the encoder has been supplied with voltage for a defined period of time. This also allows specific quantities of materials such as grease and oils to be used.

## AFM60 EtherCAT® absolute encoder

The high-resolution AFM60 EtherCAT® absolute encoder represents high-precision measurement of absolute position and speed in the area of industrial automation. Comprehensive functions for diagnosing parameters such as temperature or operating time and early error detection increase network reliability. Various configuration options – for example, modifying the resolution, rotational direction, or unit of speed measurement – simplify installation and enable customized adjustment to each application. Its compact design also makes the AFM60 EtherCAT® suitable for applications in confined spaces. Embedded switch technology ensures maximum plant and machine availability and thus contributes to increased productivity.

Image: AFM60\_EtherCAT\_IM0051718.jpg  
Information from the AFM60 EtherCAT® absolute encoder can be used as the basis for an analysis tool that enables future faults to be detected in advance.

SICK is one of the world’s leading producers of sensors and sensor solutions for industrial applications. Founded in 1946 by Dr.-Ing. h. c. Erwin Sick, the company with headquarters in Waldkirch/Germany ranks among the technological market leaders. With more than 50 subsidiaries and equity investments as well as numerous agencies, SICK maintains a presence all around the globe. In the fiscal year 2015, SICK had more than 7,400 employees worldwide and achieved Group sales of just under EUR 1.3 billion.