

NEWS RELEASE

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Alden Products Company and Harting Announce New M12 Quick Disconnect System

(BROCKTON, MA) - December 14, 2004 - Alden Products Company of Brockton, MA and HARTING Electric of Espelkamp, Germany have jointly introduced a revolutionary quick mating multi-coupling connector system with backwards compatibility with the M12 threaded coupler for 4-pin Ethernet based applications.

The new connector family is the result of a cooperative design effort between the two companies, leveraging each other's expertise in the areas of high reliability coupling technologies and field cable termination techniques, and compliments each company's current Ethernet product offerings. Marketed under the brand name Pulse Plus™ by Alden and Han QCS by HARTING, the new receptacle is capable of hosting multiple coupling interfaces in the same space as a traditional M12 threaded coupler.

The Han QCS (Harting) or Pulse-Plus™ (Alden) receptacle is designed with an internal thread in conformity with international standards, but uses the Alden Pulse-Lok® auto-coupling mating technology on the outside of the receptacle shell making the connection literally a "snap". Additionally, HARAX™ easy termination IDC contacts will allow even an installed traditional threaded only cable connector to be exchanged for the quick lock system.

"Typical M12 D-coded connectors - standardized for industrial Ethernet use world wide - are equipped with threaded coupling mechanisms that are time consuming to use in applications where multiple and repeated matings and un-matings are required, an example being test and set up of complex machinery and automation", says Sharon Thomas, Alden's Industry Product Manager for the PulsePlus™ line. "Alden's Pulse-Lok® quick-coupling technology eliminates this frustration. Plus, intermittency is virtually eliminated with the Pulse Lok® coupler because it provides audible, visual and tactile mating confirmation."

The Pulse-Plus™/ Han QCS plugs come equipped with the Harax™ field termination system allowing for field installation, maintenance and repair of the connectors on shielded or unshielded cable.

"The collaboration of these two independent companies, leveraging best in class connector technologies, represents a vast improvement over the traditional M12



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4-pin threaded connectors by combining Harting's proven HARAX™ field installation capability and Alden's Pulse Lok® high reliability coupling system while maintaining backwards compatibility and field installation capability", adds Thomas. "Utilizing the enhanced receptacle, the customer now has a choice on the plug side to mate with the traditional threads or the quicker, more effective auto-couplers."

Alden Products Company and Harting Electric will both produce the full line of receptacles, field installable plugs and custom factory cable assemblies in their product families.

About Alden Products Company...

Alden Products Company, located in Brockton, Massachusetts, is a leading manufacturer of state-of-the-art interconnect products ranging from circular instrumentation connectors and industrial Ethernet connectors to high-voltage connectors to fully integrated cable and connector assemblies.

About Harting Electric...

Harting Electric, part of the Harting Technology Group located in Espelkamp, Germany, develops, manufactures and sells industrial connectors, connector technology and system components to clients active in the fields of mechanical engineering, automation technology, transportation and power engineering.