

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIEMENS BECOMES GLOBAL INDUSTRY PARTNER OF WORLDSKILLS INTERNATIONAL

GERMANY (March 3rd, 2011) – **The aim is to improve the quality of vocational education training worldwide.** Siemens has signed a partnership contract with the non-profit organisation WorldSkills International (WSI). As a Global Industry Partner, Siemens will support WSI in improving the quality of vocational training worldwide. Siemens is the 10th Global Industry Partner, swelling ranks that include companies like Wuerth, Festo and Samsung, and it will consolidate the topic area industrial automation at WSI. At the same time, Siemens will be a product sponsor of the 41st WorldSkills Competition to be held in London in October 2011. Siemens will provide equipment in the two competitions "Industrial Control" and "Polymechanics/Automation", and for this purpose it will equip the competing participants with automation and drive components.

WorldSkills International (WSI) has been active for over 60 years with the aim of improving the quality and awareness of skills training and excellence worldwide as well as promoting a high quality standard for vocational education training. Local, regional and national skills competitions take place in the 54 Member countries/regions which lead to the WorldSkills Competition (WSC) which is an international competition for skill, trade and technology vocations. The WSC takes place every two years for participants aged 22 and under in a different Member country/region. At this year's 41st WorldSkills Competition from October 5 to 8 in London, more than 1,000 of the best Competitors from 50 countries/regions will meet and compete in 45 disciplines. In excess of 3,000 Experts, Delegates, VIPs, and journalists are expected at the event, along with over 150,000 visitors. Siemens is the product sponsor for Competition Skill 1 "Polymechanics/Automation" and Skill 19 "Industrial Control". The company will provide the participants with the required hardware and software for automation and drives technology.

At the contract signing ceremony, Tjerk Dusseldorp, President of WorldSkills International said:

"WorldSkills International is pleased to welcome Siemens as our 10th Global Industry Partner. Siemens joins a select group of global corporations which are helping to make a real difference in developing high quality skills and creating exciting technological futures for young people across the world. Siemens stands for technological excellence, innovation, quality, and reliability. WorldSkills provides a unique means to value and compare world-class competencies in the key industrial and service sectors of the global economy. Together we will ensure that the leaders of tomorrow have every opportunity to reach their full WorldSkills potential."

www.worldskills.org

As Siemens spokesperson for WorldSkills, Ralf-Michael Franke, CEO of Business Unit Industrial Automation Systems, emphasized the significance of technology and training at Siemens:

"A globally operating and innovative technological corporation like ours seeks to attract individuals to the world of technology. As a Global Industry Partner, we share with WorldSkills a responsibility to ensure sustained improvement in the quality of vocational training worldwide. That is why we are transferring our distinctive technological know-how to the participants and supporting them selectively in the preparatory phase with, for example, training courses and technical support." www.siemens.com/sce/wsi

- more -

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The comprehensive program “Siemens Automation Cooperates with Education (SCE)” enables education institutes worldwide to benefit from Siemens' knowledge of automation and drives technology. The range encompasses hardware/software packages and adaptable training documents for practice-oriented teaching in the area of automation and drives technology, and dedicated training courses.

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BACKGROUNDER

WorldSkills International

WorldSkills International's (WSI) mission is to promote, through the cooperative action of 54 Members countries/regions, a worldwide awareness of the essential contribution that skills and high standards of competence make to the achievement of economic success and personal fulfilment. WSI provides a unique means of exchange and comparison of world-class competency standards in the industrial trades, information technologies and service sectors of the global economy. WSI works at all levels from grassroots to senior policy makers to affect change in training procedures, policy development and international standards. Through advocacy, education and Competitions, WorldSkills International is raising the level of competences throughout the world and bringing new awareness to these crucial sectors in the global economy. Without skills there is no economy.

www.worldskills.org

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