Kepware Launches the Next Generation of Automation Communications ― Kepware's KEPServerEX Version 5 is Released

Portland, ME, **July 28, 2009** – Kepware Technologies, the leader in Communications for Automation, announced today that it has released its next generation of KEPServerEX, version 5, available now for OEMs, Channel Partners and End Users.

KEPServerEX is the world's #1 selling communications product in the automation marketplace. This new release has been in development for over two years and represents Kepware's next generation communication platform delivering; a new architecture and a wealth of new features and benefits while retaining a similar look, feel and compatibility with earlier versions.

The new architecture is designed for portability – able to be delivered on other than Microsoft run-time environments. It is designed to achieve Microsoft Vista and Server 2008 Logo Compliance. It offers a split Management (configuration) vs. Run-time operation, enabling management at the user level and operation as a service, with the added bonus of Microsoft Terminal Services multi-user support. Finally, KEPServerEX version 5 delivers a new licensing and Customer Support model, designed to maximize end user value and packaging flexibility.

KEPServerEX is now delivered in the form of Vertical Suites, maximizing cost savings by bundling the most common protocols used in a vertical market under one very cost effective solution. The new Vertical Suites are: IT and Infrastructure Suite (SNMP, Ping, System Monitor, Modbus and UCON drivers), Building Automation Suite (BACnet, Modbus, UCON drivers), Power Distribution Suite (DNP, Modbus, UCON drivers), Oil and Gas Suite (ROC, ROC Plus, Modbus and Modbus like RTU protocols, UCON drivers), and the Manufacturing Suite (a collection of over 100 protocols typically found in manufacturing environments). Protocols may still be purchased separately. All protocols in an installation are supported by one instance of KEPServerEX, one OPC Interface and one Tag Namespace, delivering easy configuration, common diagnostics and the lowest long term TCO (Total Cost of Ownership).

Kepware also releases a new warranty, support and upgrade program. Kepware's warranty is now extended to 90 days. During this time, customers are eligible for free technical support, access to the Kepware on-line knowledge base, and product upgrades. KEPServerEX will be delivered on a quarterly basis and customers will always be entitled to one free upgrade with their initial purchase. A new technical support program will deliver phone support and product updates on a yearly basis following the 90 day warranty period. The web based knowledgebase will remain free.

"This is the next generation of communications technology," explained Tony Paine, Executive VP and CTO of Kepware Technologies. "Version 5 is the greatest single development effort we have ever undertaken and this is the foundation for many new and powerful features. This will be the platform for our public release of OPC-UA technology. Upcoming releases will deliver Tunneling and Remote Administration This release also opens up the ability for Kepware to support many more platforms, from Linux to deeply embedded operating systems such as VxWorks, to be used by our many OEM partners."

"Software Toolbox is Kepware's largest reseller. We brand label KEPServerEX as our TOP Server product offering," Said John Weber, President of Software Toolbox. "We are an early adopter of KEPServerEX version 5, and have been working with it for months now. Our version of TOP Server will be available simultaneously with Kepware's release and we are excited to deliver this new product to our customers."

----more----

"Kepware has evolved from a supplier of third party drivers to a technology partner capable of delivering the complete communications architecture to their partners and customers. As demonstrated by this next generation product, Kepware's focus has allowed them to push the envelope of technology while building on years of experience to deliver new features and benefits," explains Craig Resnick, Industry Analyst for ARC Advisory Group. "Kepware has demonstrated a deep and continued commitment to delivering value and quality to their customers."

About Kepware
Kepware is the world leader in communication software for automation and offers a unique experience in both OPC and embedded device communications. Since 1995, Kepware has focused on the development of communication drivers to automation controllers, I/O and field devices, OEM Licensable communications and Licensable OPC Interoperability solutions. Applications include M2M (Machine to Machine) and M2E (Machine to Enterprise) communications. Operating system support includes; Microsoft Windows Desktop, Windows Server and Windows Embedded (Windows CE and Windows Embedded NT/XP). Today, with over 140 communication protocols, and through the efforts of our direct sales, distribution and embedded partners, Kepware is the leading provider of communications with annual shipments exceeding 100,000 units. Kepware's responsiveness to customer needs and strong partnerships with other leading automation suppliers ensures that your next application will be a success. Ask around and you'll hear why automation professionals everywhere consider Kepware Technologies "Automation's Best Friend". www.kepware.com

All product and company names listed are trademarks or trade names of their respective companies.

Kepware Media Contact:
Roy Kok
VP of Marketing and Sales
Kepware
(207) 775-1660 x253
Roy.Kok@kepware.com