

**The New ETS4: Easy, Fast, Open**

**Singapore, Los Angeles, Johannesburg, London, Berlin, Moscow – building automation engineers from all over the world, use ETS as product and manufacturer-independent programming tool in order to increase energy efficiency of buildings. This standardised tool is currently available in 15 languages, and supports KNX installations for all media: twisted pair, radio frequency, Ethernet/IP and power line. To meet the latest technical and economic requirements and globalisation demands, KNX Association has now completely redesigned its Engineering Tool Software (ETS) including a set of many new functions. ETS4 makes it possible to implement KNX projects in a easy and fast way. Moreover, the use of the platform-independent universal standard XML makes it possible to access all KNX project related information in text form. The ETS4 is available from October 2010.**

With the new ETS4, KNX Association has responded to new, tougher requirements in terms of handling, technical features, and economy – after all, the range of applications for which bus technology is used has recently tremendously increased. The average KNX installation has now also become quit larger. The functionality that non-residential buildings and intelligent residential buildings need to offer has also become more diverse. KNX solutions need to handle current challenges like making buildings as energy-efficient as possible. The demands from a technical and economic point of view for Electricians and system integrators designing, installing, commissioning and supervising KNX systems, have increased.



### Practical focus

It was essential that the new ETS4 would offer a clearly-structured, intuitive user interface meeting these increased demands. A new design for its user interface design was simply a top priority in its further development. A market leader from this sector was consulted in order to accomplish this requirement – which indicates the importance that KNX Association attaches to its device and manufacturer-independent standard tool for home and building automation. An international investigation was set up in order to optimise this new user interface, not only KNX professionals but also beginners with little or no KNX knowledge were consulted. System integrators with ETS3 expertise had the opportunity to try out the usefulness of the new features and at the same time the chance to give feedback based on their daily experience. The tests with beginners were conducted to determine how intuitive the restructured work flows really are. In workshops held around the world, both professionals and beginners tested the tool on its daily usefulness in respect

to maintaining projects quickly and offering highly demanding services. The result of all of this research work is a state-of-the-art tool that meets the needs of a modern home and building control technology.

### Highly visual interface

The tool's new user interface is characterised by an up-to-date, highly visual design. A new feature is for example an overview page, where users can view projects and access further information such as KNX news and the current ETS4 configuration. The project administration view,

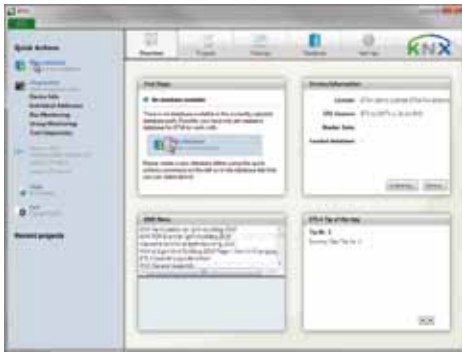
which shows project data and properties, is clearer than the ones from its predecessor. The selective lists for opening databases, opening projects, importing data and viewing the most recently opened projects are together with the central toolbar, very useful features. Initially ETS users – when working on projects – might miss the 'old' overview, because it's no longer divided into three parts – topology view, group address view and building view. But professionals will quickly appreciate the simplified navigation and larger overviews of the "single window interface". This is because of integrating various system views into one, crucial information is always visible and this without the need for additional menus. In the topology overview for example, it only takes a mouse click via the line and device menu to quickly and easily reach communication objects, device details and comments. Important information can always be called via a sidebar. There is also a special Favourites window which can be personalised in order to quickly access customer-specific elements such as preconfigured devices or entire lines.

### Intuitive

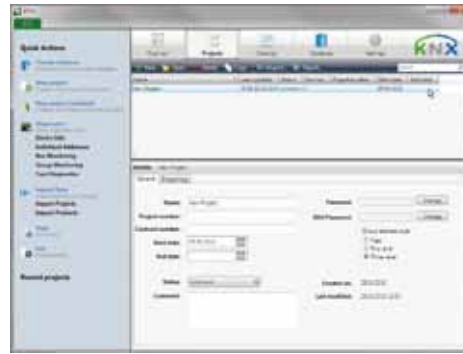
Another advantage of the new ETS4 user interface is the "guided workflow" – a step-



*Litmus test – How well will it meet future requirements? KNX professionals test ETS4 with their own projects.*



The overview page provides rapid access to information via 4 windows and a quick link menu



Clearly-structured project administration view with information on projects, their properties, and further details

by-step tutorial for creating bus configurations. Especially the topic-based Help features and the possibility to undo and repeat actions are very convenient. System checks can be carried out at any time - this allows possible configuration errors to be detected quickly and in time. Drag & drop for e.g. assigning group addresses to communication objects, makes working with ETS4 yet even more intuitive. Thanks to the free-configurable views (dynamic folders), professionals can put together their own interfaces in order to suit them to the way they work.

### Performance

ETS4 reduces processing times notably. Faster downloading, efficient product finders, easy access to device parameters, clear presentation of

parameter settings, topology presented as a tree structure, and extended search functions all help to meet the need for effective planning and parameterisation. Programming processes run in the background, this allows the user to continue working in the user interface – and thus saving valuable time.

ETS4 offers a number of particularly useful functions in order to design commission and service KNX installations in a faster, more reliable and thus more economical way. A good example in this context is the extended “copying and duplication method”, which makes the parameterisation work for specific rooms and lines very effective.

“Search and replace” is another practical function. This allows an easy exchange of

similar devices, quicker error corrections and application changes. Planning is also easier thanks to the Project Diagnosis Wizard. Planning errors such as missing line couplers, unused group addresses and not loaded applications are highlighted in order to draw the attention of the user.

### Greater transparency

The new “Project Tracking” function is helpful for extensive parameterisation work, which is often performed by several users. This function logs all information regarding to: changes made for parameters and addresses, all imports and exports, etc. All these events are kept in the project database with a timestamp together with details of the user. The “Futures” feature is useful for coordination

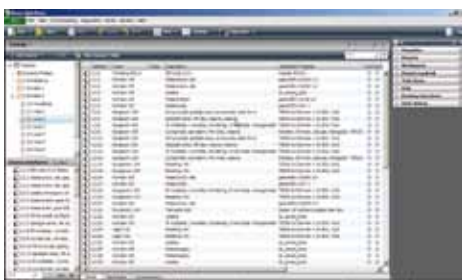
and programming, while the “Record” function allows any access to be traced at any time. The new “Project Comparison” function allows to trace (to proof) any changes made since the last project session, for example at third parties. Here the software simply compares the data as stored in the ETS database with the (‘live’) data of the current KNX system – this is an ideal way to detect any inconsistency and hence assists in dealing with warranty claims. The “Long-Term Recording” function is another new feature designed to meet the growing demand for optimisation, repair and reverse engineering – this is because more and more KNX systems are getting outdated and hence require maintenance. This useful feature provides service technicians with detailed information on, for example, telegram traffic in the system, bus loads, timings, etc.

### The flexibility of XML

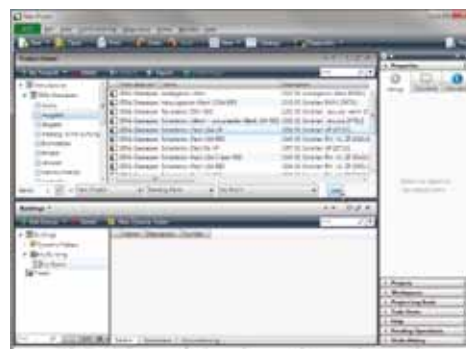
Software can obviously only be good if it’s technically up-to-date. KNX Association has therefore made sure its new tool is based on the latest technologies, standards and operating systems. In order to meet future requirements, ETS4 uses nowadays data exchange formats. Thanks to XML a platform-independent universal standard is assured. Visualisation experts can access all KNX project related in text format, on top of and beyond the general ETS data. The new ETS4 data exchange format can be opened and displayed in any text editor or web browser. The standardised open interface allows the integration of numerous apps and offers hence once more the possibility to extend the ETS functionality.

### Online updates

One of the very first ETS4 tasks is of course its set-up, its licensing and installing its



Generously-proportioned display of device properties and communication objects on the topology overview, including system information and sidebar



Clear device selection view in the “Product Finder” with search function and rapid access to preferred manufacturers, user-configured products (top) and project/project area range for insert (bottom).



During project processing, the freely-positionable sidebar provides information on the properties of the product to be inserted, including its physical address, etc.



ETS4 Workshop in Stockholm (Sweden)

online updates. Also these ETS tasks have been optimised in respect to previous versions of the software. The online updates ensure that ETS4 always is up-to-date. ETS4 inherited this mechanism from other tools. It informs users about updates and bug fixes as soon as they are available. Users can of course decide for themselves whether to download and install the suggested update. ETS4 can be installed in parallel to ETS3. The two versions function independently from one another. It will of course also be possible to upgrade ETS3 directly into ETS4.

### The KNX world simplified

The new ETS4 will make electricians, planners and system integrators even more competent in the area of home and building control. It will allow them to implement KNX installations economically and to provide an optimal service for customer systems. The tool provides numerous



### Improvements of the new user interface design:

- Modern design
- Clear presentation
- Step-by-step guide
- Topic-based Help function
- Intuitive drag & drop for objects
- More efficient access to device parameters

### Functions to optimise project processing:

- Project comparison for checking existing KNX installations
- Extended copy function for effective project design
- Long-term recording for maintenance and troubleshooting purposes
- Project and tool diagnosis for reliable project design
- Project action tracking
- Search and replace for easy exchange of devices and much more.

technical features to help with these tasks. User with little or no KNX experience at all will quickly appreciate the clear design of the user interface. The intuitive interface assures an easy entry into the KNX world and will increase the number of KNX users. The new ETS4 has been put on the right track thanks to the KNX professionals testing it during international workshops.

## Declaraciones de usuarios de ETS



"Initially I was sceptical about the new ETS4 design, but I quickly found my way. It is clearly structured and by the end of the workshop, ETS4 felt as familiar as ETS3."  
(Mats Nordahl, KNX User Club Sweden)



"We often work on projects as a team. We liked it that ETS4 offers options for fast project data and databases exchanges between notebooks, servers and PCs. This makes it considerably easier for us to cooperate in this way."  
(Helmut Lintschinger, KNX Professionals, Germany)



"Overall performance is now faster. For example, because of the way in which separate working steps have been combined and thanks to multiple copying and duplication of entire structures, it is now very quick to reproduce and re-use products, projects, lines and descriptions."  
(Iain Gordon, KNX UK)



"ETS4 gives a very professional first impression. Thanks to its clearly-structured interface, even new users will quickly find their way."  
(Peter Smith, KNX Professionals, Netherlands)