

EPICS Collaboration Meeting September 2022



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EPICS Module for Beckhoff ADS Protocol

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With increasing popularity of Beckhoff devices in scientific projects, there is a rising need for their devices to be integrated into EPICS control systems. Our customers often want to use Beckhoff PLCs for applications that have to handle a large amount of inputs with fast cycle times. How can we connect Beckhoff devices to EPICS control systems without sacrificing this performance?

Beckhoff offers multiple possibilities when it comes to interfacing with their PLCs or industrial PCs, such as modbus, OPC UA, or ADS protocol. While all of these could be used for the usual use cases, we believe that for more data intensive applications, ADS works best. For this reason, Cosylab developed an EPICS device support module that implements advanced ADS features, such as ADS sum commands, which provide fast read/write capabilities to your IOCs.

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