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**SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC NORTH AMERICAN OPERATING DIVISION  
APPOINTS NIC GIHL VICE PRESIDENT OF INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION**

PALATINE, Ill., June 28, 2004 – Nic Gihl has been named Vice President of Industrial Automation at the Schneider Electric North American Operating Division, announced Dave Petratis, president and CEO.

Based in Palatine, Ill., the North American Operating Division is one of four geographic divisions of Paris-based Schneider Electric, a leading global provider of electrical distribution, control and automation products, systems and services.

Gihl most recently served as president of Proface America and Director/Co-chairman of Digital Electronics, Osaka, Japan, which Schneider Electric acquired last year. It's one of the largest human machine interface (HMI), touch screen and graphic screen manufacturers in the world.

Gihl will lead the company's Industrial Automation sales and marketing team in North America and work closely with Schneider Electric's global Industrial Automation group to ensure consistent strategies and execution.

"Nic brings more than 20 years of experience in meeting the needs of automation and control customers around the world," said Petratis. "He understands the needs of OEMs, end users and system integrators. He knows the technology and the increasingly important role that automation plays in helping manufacturers reduce costs, drive down cycle times and achieve superior quality standards.



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We're expanding our range of automation solutions, and we're delighted that Nic will lead the charge to help us gain share in this exciting market segment."

Gihl's previous experience includes serving as senior vice president of GE-Fanuc, Charlottesville, Va., a joint venture between General Electric and Fanuc, a Japanese CNC/robotics company. At Total Control Products, Melrose Park, Ill., he was promoted from executive vice president to president. He began his career at Mark Controls Power, Regulator Division, Northbrook, Ill., where he served as design engineer and engineering supervisor. Gihl earned a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University.

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#### Schneider Electric North American Operating Division

Headquartered in Palatine, Ill., the North American Operating Division of Schneider Electric had sales of \$2.5 billion (U.S.) in 2003. The North American Operating Division is one of four operating divisions of Schneider Electric, headquartered in Paris, France, and markets the Square D, Telemecanique and Merlin Gerin brand products to customers in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In the United States, Schneider Electric is best known by its flagship Square D brand, with Telemecanique becoming increasingly known in the industrial control and automation markets and supported by many Square D distributors. For 100 years, Square D has been a market-leading brand of electrical distribution and industrial control products, systems and services. Schneider Electric is a global electrical industry leader with 2003 sales of approximately \$9.9 billion (U.S.). Visit Schneider Electric on the Internet at:

- Corporate – <http://www.us.schneider-electric.com>
- Telemecanique Products – <http://www.us.telemecanique.com>
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