

OPC Foundation and CC-Link Partner Association (CLPA) Sign Memorandum of Understanding at Hannover Fair

The two standards agree to coordinate communications in Machine to IT systems

Hannover, Germany – April 26, 2016 – The OPC Foundation pursues interoperability in industrial automation by creating and maintaining open specifications that standardize communication of acquired process data, alarm and event records, historical data, and batch data to multi-vendor enterprise systems and between production devices. The goal for OPC is to be the foundation for interoperability for moving information vertically from the factory floor through the enterprise of multi-vendor systems as well as providing interoperability between devices on different industrial networks from different vendors.

The CC-Link Partner Association is an international organization with over 2,600 member companies worldwide. Their common goal is the promotion and development of advanced open network technologies such as CC-Link IE (Industrial Ethernet) and CC Link (fieldbus).

Digitalization in all areas of industrial automation requires consistent communications across all levels while using Internet technologies, both inside and outside of the factory, for example to cloud-based services. This is precisely what the OPC Foundation and the CLPA hope to achieve by developing an interface specification with harmonized access.

At the Hannover Fair, Thomas J. Burke, President and Executive Director of the OPC Foundation and Naomi Nakamura, Global Director of the CC-Link Partner Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding in which both organizations agree to closely cooperate while developing these interfaces. Mr. Burke, President and Executive Director OPC Foundation, said, "This collaboration between the OPC Foundation and the CLPA provides a complete solution for CC-Link networks and devices to the cloud. End-users who have selected the reliable CC-Link networks will also be able to integrate with other disparate systems to achieve complete data and information exchange".

Ms. Nakamura, Global Director of CLPA said, "CLPA is at the forefront of offering solutions that help users to achieve their Industry 4.0 aspirations. For example, CC-Link IE already offers the greatest bandwidth for these applications with our unique gigabit Ethernet. By working with the OPC Foundation, we now want to take this a step further. Our aim is to make the task of getting data from machines simpler by supporting edge computing. By extending our CSP+ technology combined with OPC-UA, machines will be treated as if they were just a single device. This will allow information to be easily shared throughout an enterprise and beyond."

About the CLPA

The CC-Link Partner Association (CLPA) is an international organisation with over 2,500 member companies worldwide. The partners' common objective is promotion and technical development of the family of CC-Link open automation network technologies. Over 1,500 certified products are now available from more than 300 manufacturers. CC-Link is the leading open industrial automation network technology in Asia and is becoming increasingly popular in Europe and the Americas. The CLPA's main initiative for Europe is the Gateway to Asia (G2A) programme, which helps European businesses develop their Asian business further. More details are at www.cc-link-g2a.com.

About OPC Foundation

Since 1996, the OPC Foundation has facilitated the development and adoption of the OPC information exchange standards. As both advocate and custodian of these specifications, the Foundation's mission is to help industry vendors, end-users, and software developers maintain interoperability in their manufacturing and automation assets. The OPC Foundation is dedicated to providing the best specifications, technology, process and certification to achieve multivendor, multiplatform, secure, reliable interoperability for moving data and information from the embedded world to the enterprise cloud. The organization serves over 470 members worldwide in the Industrial Automation, IT, IoT, IIoT, M2M, Industrie 4.0, Building Automation, machine tools, pharmaceutical, petrochemical, and Smart Energy sectors. For more information about the OPC Foundation, please visit <https://opcfoundation.org>.

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