



CC-Link widens partner product development options, reduces time to market

Product time-to-market for the CC-Link IE Field gigabit open industrial Ethernet standard will now be even shorter than ever before, following the announcement of support for the network by two major semiconductor industry players. Renesas and Altima will both showcase solutions for CC-Link IE Field at the SPS/IPC/Drives 2012 fair in Nuremberg, Germany on the CC-Link Partner Association (CLPA) booth (6-122).

The development solutions focus on two key technologies widely used for the implementation of devices – Application Specific Standard Products (ASSP) and Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGA). Both technologies are widely used in automation and allow a company to quickly develop a product or modify it to changing market demands.

The ASSP solution is being offered by Renesas and is based on their R-IN32M3 series of devices that incorporate a number of technologies designed to increase performance and ease of use. These include features such as an Ethernet Accelerator and Real-Time OS Accelerator that provide up to 6.5 times higher performance than comparable software based devices. The device also incorporates industry standard ARM® Cortex™-M3 technology, ensuring that development engineers have a familiar platform to work with. Renesas expects to make the devices available on a sample basis from January 2013.

FPGAs are a complementary solution to ASSPs. Altima is well known for development of so called "IP (Intellectual Property) cores" for FPGA devices. These are effectively the designs that configure an FPGA to perform a specific function. In the case of CC-Link IE Field, Altima offers an IP core which duplicates the functionality of the existing CP220 ASIC. By offering the CC-Link core, Altima offers companies the ability to quickly implement this network in supported FPGA based devices, increasing design flexibility while decreasing time to market. The first device to be supported will be the Altera® Cyclone IV E, a popular type widely used in the industry. Expected availability is March 2013.

CC-Link is an open automation network standard originally created in Japan by Mitsubishi Electric Corporation. It offers high performance, deterministic control of devices and equipment in manufacturing and production facilities and can also integrate with enterprise information networks to give total visibility of all functions. CC-Link is available in both industrial Ethernet and fieldbus formats and is now supported by over 250 manufacturers worldwide. It is used in industry around the world, and is particularly favoured throughout Asia including China and Japan.

The main activities of the CLPA are to continue development of the CC-Link technology, to conduct conformance tests and provide technical assistance in development of CC-Link-compatible devices. It is also responsible for the global promotion of CC-Link and the development of the membership base. As of September 2012, over 1700 companies worldwide are members.

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About the CLPA

The CC-Link Partner Association (CLPA) is an international organisation with over 1,700 member companies worldwide. The partners' common objective is promotion and technical development of the family of CC-Link open network technologies. Over 1,200 certified products are now available from over 250 manufacturers. CC-Link is the leading open industrial automation network technology in Asia and is becoming increasingly popular in Europe and the Americas. The European headquarters is in Germany, with offices throughout the continent. The key details for CLPA's Gateway to China (G2C) can be found at the URL www.cc-link-g2c.com.



Editor Contact

DMA Europa Ltd : Bob Dobson

Tel: +44 (0)1798 861677

Fax: +44 (0)1299 403092

Web: www.dmaeuropa.com

Email: bob@bobdobson.com

Company Contact

CLPA Europe : John Browett

Tel: +44-(0)776 833 8708

Fax: +49 (0)2102 532 9740

Web: www.the-non-stop-open-network.com

Email: John.browett@clpa-europe.com