

PRESS RELEASE

Corneliusstraße 4
60325 Frankfurt am Main
GERMANY
Telefon +49 69 756081-0
Telefax +49 69 756081-11
E-Mail vdw@vdw.de
Internet www.vdw.de

From Sylke Becker
Telephone +49 69 756081-33
Email s.becker@vdw.de

Full throttle towards a common language for machine tools

Interested parties are invited to participate in *umati*

Frankfurt am Main, Nuremberg, 28 November 2018. – *umati* (universal machine tool interface) moves one step ahead towards becoming a generally accepted standard. VDW, the German Machine Tool Builders' Association and the OPC Foundation establish a so-called Joint Working Group. Interested parties are cordially invited to participate with immediate effect. "The group will start its work in January 2019", reports Dr. Alexander Broos, project manager for *umati* at the VDW at a press conference of the OPC Foundation at the SPS-IPC Drives trade fair in Nuremberg. "Interested members of the OPC Foundation, the VDW or affiliated associations who want to cooperate in the joint development of *umati* towards a so-called Companion Specification of the OPC Foundation are welcome to contact us", Broos continued. In this way, the VDW wants to ensure that the worldwide needs of customers and machine tool manufacturers are included in the standard. This increases the acceptance of *umati* as a globally accepted connectivity standard.

As common with international standards, a draft of *umati* is presented to the (professional) public for inspection, feedback, and comments. After a deadline, the comments received will be incorporated to the greatest possible extent, such that a final standard can be adopted. In contrast to classical standardization organizations, OPC UA also includes configuration files that facilitate the setup of so-called OPC servers, which need to be implemented in the machine and then handle the actual communication.

Proof of concept recognized with great interest

umati passed a first crucial test in a showcase during the AMB 2018 tradeshow in Stuttgart/Germany. 15 machines from nine manufacturers with five control platforms were connected to numerous communication partners. Exchange of data was based on an extract of the first parameter set that had been jointly defined up to then. The participating companies report that setting up the communication network took between eight and 16 hours.

"The next important milestone for *umati* is the presentation of a more extensive showcase at EMO Hannover 2019. At the world's leading trade fair for metalworking we want to present a significantly larger number of international partners participating in *umati*", Broos from VDW announces. To this end, the VDW is engaged in intensive discussions with the most important market partners all over the world. In addition to the planned collaboration with companies, the VDW is working closely with its sister associations in Europe, the USA, Japan, China, South Korea, and others.

Further information is available on the Internet at www.umati.info.

Parties interested in collaboration, please contact us at info@umati.info.

Background

VDW, the German Machine Tool Builders Association:

The German machine tool industry ranks among the five largest specialist groupings in the mechanical engineering sector. It provides production technology for metalworking applications in all branches of industry and makes a crucial contribution towards innovation and enhanced productivity in the industrial sector as a whole. Due to its absolutely key role for industrial production, its development is an important indicator for the economic dynamism of the industrial sector as such. In 2017, with around 72,500 employees (annual average for 2017, firms with more than 50 staff), the sector produced machines and services worth around 16 billion euros.

Further information at: www.vdw.de, www.umati.info

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 Foundation serves over 580 members worldwide in the Industrial Automation, IT, IoT, IIoT, M2M, Industrie 4.0, Building Automation, machine tools, pharmaceutical, petrochemical, and Smart Energy sectors.

OPC UA

OPC Unified Architecture (OPC UA) is a platform and manufacturer independent communication technology for secure and reliable data exchange across the various levels of the automation pyramid. In addition, the information models of the OPC UA standard form the basis for semantic interoperability.

For more information about the OPC Foundation, please visit <http://www.opcfoundation.org>

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