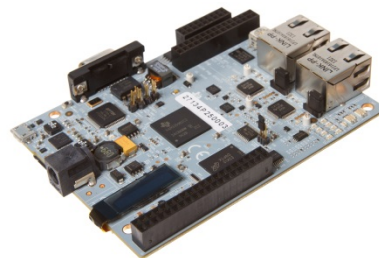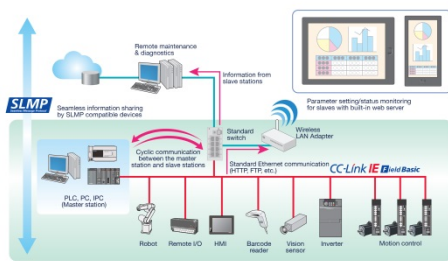CC-Link Partner Association (CLPA)

Subject: CLPA highlights growth of CC-Link IE development solutions

Keywords: Industry standard, leading Partners, demand from market, getting them involved, future growth, easy way to get on board, CC-Link Partner Association, TI, Texas Instruments, Hilscher, IEFB, CC-Link IE Field Basic, SPS/IPC/Drives, automation, industrial communication

Byline: John Wozniak, P.E., CLPA-Americas Manager
Vernon Hills, IL United States; July 25, 2018

Photographs download as 300dpi Jpeg files, click on an image to go to download page

CLPA highlights growth of CC-Link IE development solutions
The CC-Link Partner Association (CLPA) highlighted the growing range of CC-Link IE development options at this year's SPS/IPC/Drives Italia. CLPA offers a comprehensive range of options for device makers wanting to get on board, whether with CC-Link IE's unique open gigabit Ethernet or CC-Link IE Field Basic (IEFB), which extends CC-Link IE compatibility to 100Mbit Ethernet devices.

The number of compatible PLCs, HMIs, inverters, servos and remote I/O has been constantly growing since the launch of IEFB.

The CLPA displayed a variety of industry standard development solutions for CC-Link IE, CC-Link IE Field Basic and their fieldbus counterpart CC-Link. Of particular interest are the IEFB development solutions by two key CLPA partners, Hilscher and Texas Instruments (TI).

The Hilscher solution is an extension of their industry standard netX platform which is already a market leader for open automation networking. The options available include embedded modules that make it easy for current Hilscher customers to add CC-Link IE or IEFB compatibility to existing products already using the netX platform. PC cards for both network types round out the picture, offering compatibility for industrial PC based systems.

Christof Hunger, product manager at Hilscher, commented, "Hilscher is a long-time partner of the CLPA and we have offered CC-Link fieldbus options for many years. However, with the rising demand for Ethernet based systems and the continuing growth of the CC-Link IE installed base, we knew it was time to offer our extensive global customer base the option to add CC-Link IE and IEFB to their products too. We expect these new products to become a successful part of our general offering with strong sales growth expected."

In addition, TI offers a reference design to assist in the design of a CC-Link IE Field Basic master and slave based on its Sitara™ processor portfolio. Companies worldwide are using Sitara processors for embedded development in industrial automation applications. TI's processors offer a variety of options for developing IEFB products. Since the processors are based on Arm® Cortex®-A cores, in addition to the multi-protocol PRU-ICSS engine, they can help handle control as well as networking tasks with minimum cost and complexity.

Ellen Kou, product manager at TI, commented, "Since the rise of Ethernet in the automation space, TI has sought to be a provider of leading-edge processors and industrial communication expertise to automation equipment manufacturers by leveraging the power and flexibility of our Sitara processor and complementary analogue portfolios and system insight. CC-Link IE Field Basic is an exciting networking protocol for the future of industrial automation and we are looking forward to working with the CLPA to increase its installed base across many different device types."

The Hilscher and TI platforms were displayed alongside existing options from other long-time CLPA partners HMS, Mitsubishi Electric and Renesas, who also offer CC-Link IE and CC-Link development options.

John Browett, General Manager for the CLPA in Europe concluded, "CC-Link IE is the technology leader for industrial Ethernet and Industry 4.0 by virtue of its unique gigabit bandwidth. CC-Link IE Field Basic extends the core functionality of CC-Link IE to 100Mbit devices. We can see that the market is responding to the possibilities this represents by the continued double digit growth in our global installed base, currently about 20 million devices. It's this market success that is driving industry leaders such as Hilscher and TI to join our existing partners to increase the range of options for companies looking to add this compatibility to their product lines. We plan to constantly increase this range of options for device makers who want to get on board with us to be able to find the right solution for their needs."

■ CC-Link Partner Association

Founded in 2000, the CC-Link Partner Association (CLPA) is an international open network organization dedicated to the technical development and promotion of the CC-Link family of open automation networks.

The CLPA's key technology is CC-Link IE, the world's first and only open gigabit Ethernet for automation and an ideal solution for Industry 4.0 applications due to its unmatched bandwidth. Its main activities include the development of CC-Link IE and CC-Link technical specifications, conducting of conformance tests, development support, and promotion of the CC-Link technologies. The CLPA boasts more than 3,000 members. CC-Link is the leading open industrial automation network technology in Asia and is becoming increasingly popular in the Americas and Europe.

■ Captions

Image 1: CC-Link IE Field Basic extends the core functionality of CC-Link IE to 100Mbit devices.

Image 2: The Hilscher solution is an extension of their industry standard netX platform which is already a market leader for open automation networking.

Image 3: TI offers a reference design to assist in the design of a CC-Link IE Field Basic master and slave based on its Sitara™ processor.

The image(s) distributed with this press release may only be used to accompany this copy, and are subject to copyright.

Contact for inquiries

CC-Link Partner Association-Americas

John Wozniak, P.E.

500 Corporate Woods Parkway

Vernon Hills, IL 60061

(847) 478-2647

info@CCLinkAmerica.org

http://am.cc-link.org/en/index.html