



Registered MECHATROLINK Memberships Have Hit the 500 Mark - The No.1 Membership in Asia-

The MECHATROLINK Members Association has been actively promoting the MECHATROLINK field network for motion control, under the guidance of Mr. Takeshi Tanaka, General Secretary. The association passed a new milestone in July 2009, when the total number of registered MMA members surpassed 500.

The MECHATROLINK Members Association is an organization that consists of board members, MECHATROLINK product development members, and MECHATROLINK user members. The predecessor of the organization, the MECHATROLINK MEMBERS CLUB (MMC), was established in 2003. The MECHATROLINK Members Association (MMA) was then established in 2005, aiming for a more open network.

MECHATROLINK promotes two communication standards, the widely used MECHATROLINK- II , and the high-speed MECHATROLINK- III , which uses the physical layer of Ethernet. MECHATROLINK- III can support super high-speed applications because it can handle communications with a maximum transmission cycle time of 31.25 μ s. MECHATROLINK is certified under SEMI(Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International) E54.19 standards, and has an established track record in the semiconductor and LCD manufacturing industries.

Since its establishment, the MMA has engaged in promotional activities such as exhibitions and seminars in Japan, Asia, and Europe. This certainly contributed to pushing the total number of members beyond 500 in July 2009. Recently, membership registrations from China, Korea, Japan and Taiwan have been increasing, and the MMA has grown to have the largest membership base for open networks for motion control in Asia. If we look at the distribution of members, Japan provides 50% of the total, Korea 21%, Europe 10%, China 12%, the U.S. 6%, and other countries 1%.

Currently, the MMA has bases in five different countries, the U.S., Germany, China, Korea, and Japan. The MMA plans to open a branch office in Shanghai in the second half of FY 2009, and to start services to accelerate the use of MECHATROLINK in China. There are currently 7 manufacturers in Asia who produce MECHATROLINK compliant servo drives. The MMA plans to double that number by the end of 2010, aiming to bring more manufacturers on board than any other open network.

We will continue to accelerate promotion of the MMA, aiming to bring the number of members beyond 700 by the end of FY2010.

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