



December 20, 2016
MECHATROLINK MEMBERS
ASSOCIATION

MECHATROLINK is adopted and goes into effect
as one of the Chinese National Standards (generally known as the GB Standards)

Thanks to its technical superiority and track record in China, MECHATROLINK, an open motion-control communications network protocol developed in Japan, has been adopted to become a Recommended National Standard in China, under the identifier GB/T18473-2016. It has thus become one of the Chinese National Standards, generally called the GB Standards. The spread of MECHATROLINK is promoted by the MECHATROLINK MEMBERS ASSOCIATION (MMA: Headquarters in Iruma City, Saitama Prefecture, Japan).

About the Chinese National Standards (the GB Standards)

The Chinese National Standards are technical standards that are specified in the Standardization Law of the People's Republic of China. They are established and managed under the jurisdiction of the Standardization Administration of the People's Republic of China (SAC: <http://www.sac.gov.cn/>).

The Chinese National Standards are classified according to the range within which a particular standard is binding, and are known as the National Standards, Industry Standards, Local Standards, and Enterprise Standards. The National Standards are further divided into the Mandatory Standards (where each standard number is prefixed by GB) and the Recommended Standards (where each standard number is prefixed with GB/T).

The GB standard adopts MECHATROLINK

MECHATROLINK was adopted as the following GB standard:

Standard number: GB/T18473-2016

Chinese Standard name: 工业机械电气设备 控制与驱动装置间实时串行通信数据链路

English Standard name: Electrical equipment of industrial machines - Serial data link for real-time communication between controls and drives

This standard is a revision of GB/T18473-2001 and was announced publicly in SAC Public Notification No.7 (issued on April 25, 2016) and it went into effect on November 1, 2016.

MECHATROLINK's Popularity in China

MECHATROLINK is widely used with manufacturing equipment that requires motion control. In China, this communications network protocol is especially often used with machine tools (for example, carving machines) and manufacturing equipment, including semiconductor manufacturing equipment. To get an idea of how popular this protocol is, note that about half of the membership of the MMA is made up of Chinese manufacturers!

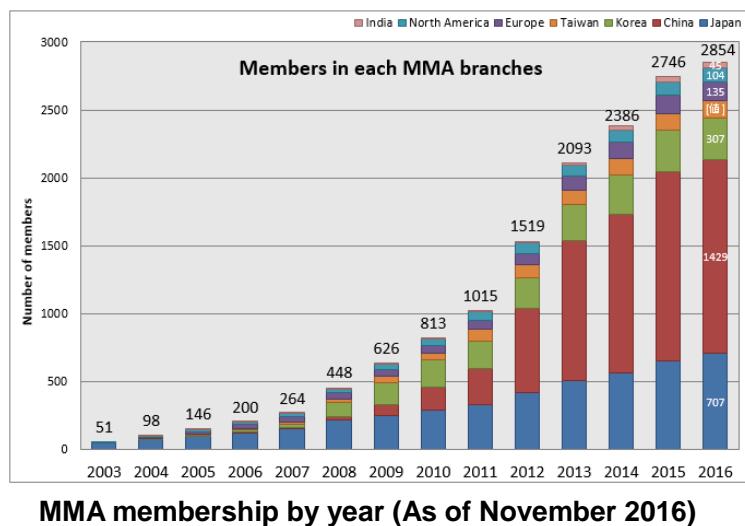
About the MMA

The MMA board committee is comprised of eight corporations:

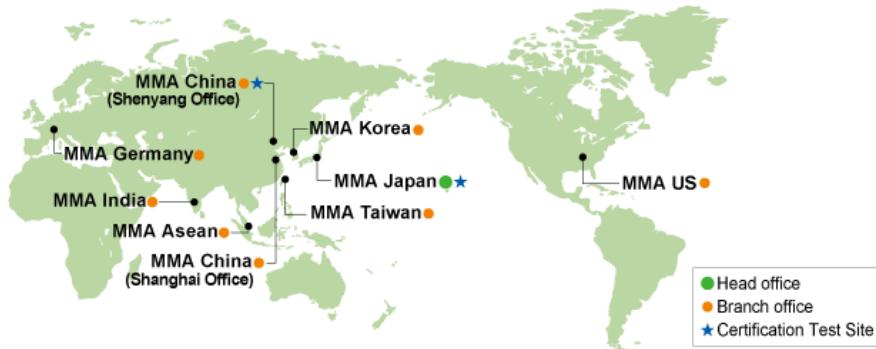
M-System Co., Ltd., ORIENTAL MOTOR CO., LTD., Digital Electronics Corporation, Keyence Corporation, YASKAWA INFORMATION SYSTEMS Corporation, YASKAWA ELECTRIC CORPORATION, YOKOGAWA ELECTRIC CORPORATION and Texas Instruments Inc.

The MMA was established to promote the global spread of MECHATROLINK open field network technologies. Its membership is comprised of eight board committee companies in addition to MECHATROLINK product developers and MECHATROLINK users. As of November 2016, the MMA includes 2,854 companies.

Branch offices have been established in South Korea, China, Taiwan, the United States, Germany, India and Singapore. These offices provide support for worldwide MECHATROLINK diffusion and promotion as well as MMA member support.



MMA membership by year (As of November 2016)



MMA global support network

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