



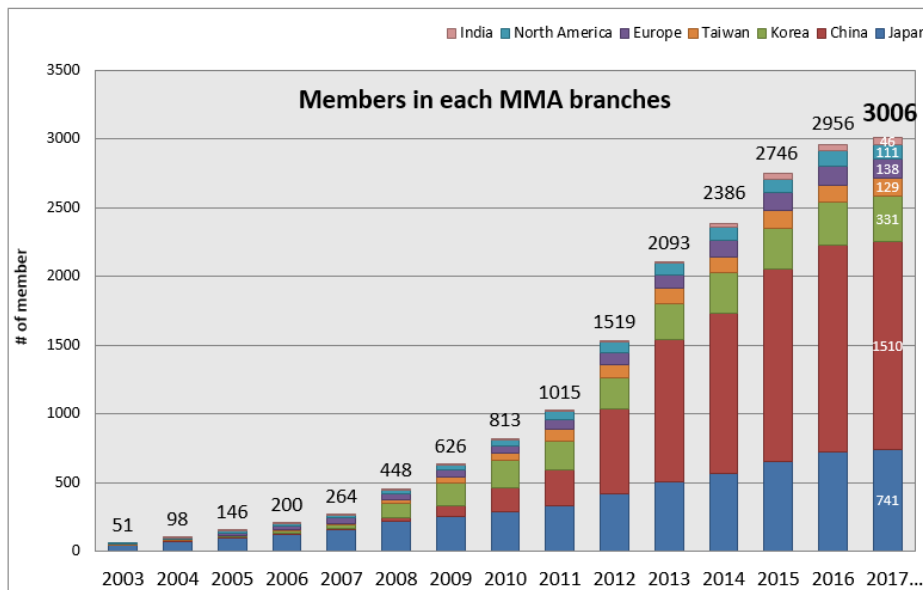
MMA reaches 3,000 member companies including more than 1,500 from China

As of May 2017, the MECHATROLINK MEMBERS ASSOCIATION (MMA; Head Office Representative: Takuya Miwa), an organization that promotes the MECHATROLINK open motion-control communications network protocol, reached a total of 3,000 member companies.

Recruitment efforts for MECHATROLINK, a network developed in Japan, primarily targeted Japanese companies in the early stages. However, as global demand and adoption for MECHATROLINK grew, the network surpassed 1,000 member companies in 2011, and three years later in February 2014 membership reached 2,000 companies. Finally, three years later in 2017, the MMA reached 3,000 member companies, representing a major growth milestone.

The MMA's 3,000th member is Soracom, Inc., a communications platform provider in the Internet of things (IoT) field. In commemoration of the organization's 3,000 member achievement, the MMA invited Soracom to deliver the keynote address at the MMA General Meeting in June.

Sustained, large-scale membership growth has been seen in China, and today more than 1,500 member companies are Chinese. The MMA plans to pay a special visit to the 1,500th Chinese MMA member, ShenZhen ShanLong Intelligent Control Co., Ltd., to celebrate this milestone.



Last year, the MMA established a branch office in Singapore, stepped up their promotional efforts in the ASEAN market, and focused other efforts on global expansion. The organization boasts members from 50 nations around the world, serving as the Asian region's largest network-related organization in terms of member count in the area of motion-function open network protocols.

Now boasting a 3,000-company membership, the MMA hopes to commemorate in 2018 the 15th anniversary of MECHATROLINK's release by strengthening development efforts further to make it the de facto open motion-control communications network protocol standard. In particular, the MMA intends to strengthen promotional activities in major Asian centers, where network introduction is accelerating at a rapid pace. These efforts include boosting member counts as well as developing MECHATROLINK-compatible products and finding more users for those products.

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About the MMA

Organization Name: MECHATROLINK MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

Abbreviation: MMA

The MMA was established in January 2003 to promote the global spread of MECHATROLINK open field network technologies. In addition to MECHATROLINK product developers and MECHATROLINK users, the MMA's membership comprises eight board committee companies on which operations center: M-System Co., Ltd., ORIENTAL MOTOR CO., LTD, KEYENCE CORPORATION, Digital Electronics Corporation, YASKAWA INFORMATION SYSTEMS Corporation, YASKAWA ELECTRIC CORPORATION, YOKOGAWA ELECTRIC CORPORATION and Texas Instruments Inc.

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