TIA's New M2M Standards Designed for Easy Adoption

Telecommunications Industry Association

Cooperation with OPC Foundation will help enhance simplicity in communications architecture for the Internet of Things through TR-50 standards series.

Orlandi, FL – The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) [1], the leading association representing the manufacturers and suppliers of high-tech communications networks, has announced the publication of key updates to its easy to understand TR-50 Machine-to-Machine (M2M) protocol standards series (TR-50 TIA 4940.020 and TR-50 TIA 4940.000). The purpose of the updated new standards is to inspire makers to implement connectivity to the things they manufacture. The standards will help manufactures of products and providers of services from around the world better understand how to enable their assets for affordable and secure connectivity and accessibility – even for those without extensive telecommunications experience.

The goal of any standardization effort is to reduce complexity and costs, and improve interoperability, through commonality. TIA has recognized that the growing demand for M2M and Internet of Things (IoT) solutions has increased the need for collaboration between the automation and communications industries. In doing so, the industries will be better able to define new business models, achieve new revenue streams, improve operational effectiveness to save money, and ensure compliance.

In order to achieve this collaboration, TIA joined forces with the OPC Foundation [2]. The two organizations have consolidated development efforts in automation, and cloud and network communications standards in order to bridge the divide between two previously distinct industries and develop the fast-to-market M2M industry standards announced today. Through its TR-50 Engineering Committee, TIA is leveraging eighty years of experience developing leading communications standards, while OPC, a founding member of the TIA TR-50 Smart Device Engineering Committee, helped shepherd the TIA’s first M2M standard launched in 2011.

“The technological solutions for M2M and the Internet of Things need to fit the opportunity,” according to TIA President Grant Seiffert. “The OPC Foundation’s standards were an ideal fit with TIA’s efforts to define easy-to-use M2M Standards. It’s our intent to focus on the underlying architecture and communications layer to turn the massive growth potential of M2M into a reality.”

“We recognized the need to collaborate with a leading communications standards organization to close the gap between the two industries,” said Tom Burke,

President and Executive Director of OPC Foundation. “TIA was the obvious choice to help bring this important idea to life.”

Alcatel Lucent, AT&T, CenturyLink, Cisco, Ericsson, ILS Technology, Intel, LG, Nokia Siemens Networks, Numerex, Qualcomm, Sprint, Verizon and Wyless, among others, are actively involved members of the TIA TR-50 standards committee, contributing to the four standards that have now been released.

OPC Foundation brings deep expertise in the field of automation interoperability (things) to match the expertise of the TIA in network and cloud-based communications (the Internet) to create an umbrella approach to industry-leading communications standards for M2M and the Internet of Things.

“In the industrial world, the emerging ‘internet of things’ will open important new opportunities for companies to improve overall equipment effectiveness and realize other performance improvements. These will be enabled through seamless data and information exchanges between machines, automation and information systems, and software applications such as advanced analytics, visualization, equipment monitoring, and remote operations,” said Craig Resnick, vice president at ARC Advisory Group. He continued, “Inevitably, this will require interoperability between existing telecommunications and industrial automation networks. ARC believes that the latest TIA M2M standards will play an important role in making this happen.”

“As a participant in both the OPC foundation as well as the Telecommunication Industry Association, we felt that bringing these groups together for this initiative made great sense” said Fred Yentz, President of ILS Technology and a member of TIA’s TR-50 Engineering Committee. “As a result, we’ve now seen the publishing of an easy to implement M2M communications protocol which will be used by the thousands of companies who manufacture products and provide services.”

Throughout 2013, TIA will highlight M2M and IoT through its networking and market intelligence services, starting this month with the debut of The Future of the Network Leadership Series, February 19th on www.tianow.org [3], In addition, the TR-50 Engineering Committee will meet again on February 19th and throughout the year. In October, TIA will host its annual industry event, TIA 2013: The Future of the Network, 8-10 October with an entire track dedicated to M2M and the Internet of Things.

For more information visit www.tiaonline.org [1] and www.opcfoundation.org [2].

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