

OPC UA companion specification for POWERLINK

SPS IPC Drives: OPC Foundation and EPSG pledge intensive cooperation



Thomas J. Burke, president of the OPC Foundation (on the left), and Stefan Schönegger, managing director of the EPSG, announce the development of an OPC UA companion specification for POWERLINK at the SPS IPC Drives trade fair.

Together, POWERLINK and OPC UA are integrating communication from the sensor layer to the ERP layer – without any interfaces whatsoever. The OPC Foundation and the Ethernet POWERLINK Standardization Group (EPSG) are already working on the necessary companion specification. This was the message conveyed by Stefan Schönegger, managing director of the EPSG, and Thomas J. Burke, president of the OPC Foundation, at the SPS IPC Drives trade fair.

Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things (IoT) require seamless and consistent communication both within the digital factory as well as externally to cloud-based services and other Internet technologies. These requirements are now being met as the EPSG and OPC Foundation work to implement a common definition for open interfaces between their technologies.

Leading real-time Ethernet system

“POWERLINK is one of the leading bus systems for machine manufacturers,” said Burke during the OPC Foundation’s press conference at the SPS IPC Drives trade show. It is an excellent complement to the functionality provided by OPC UA, he emphasized. “OPC UA is ideal for connecting directly to real-time networks and allows complete, secure and scalable communication between these networks and the world of IT.”

Ideal combination

“The combination of OPC UA and POWERLINK is ideal for integrating devices from different manufacturers as well as the various levels of the automation pyramid to create a complete system,” said Schönegger. “For this reason, the EPSG relies on OPC UA as the communication protocol from the control level all the way up to ERP systems.”

Contact:

EPSG POWERLINK OFFICE

Bonsaiweg 6
15370 Fredersdorf · Germany
Tel.: +49(0)33439 539270
Fax: +49(0)33439 539272
info@ethernet-powerlink.org
www.ethernet-powerlink.org