

ABB's System 800xA to use OPC UA standard to enhance third-party solution integration

Wickliffe, OH, June 27, 2006—ABB announced that the recently released OPC UA (Unified Architecture) standard helps third-party components, devices and systems quickly and easily integrate with System 800xA Extended Automation. OPC UA works with System 800xA's unique object management infrastructure when integrating these third-party systems to provide customers with even greater reliability, security, and ease of integration than prior generation OPC interfaces.

“The OPC UA standard works with System 800xA's object management infrastructure to facilitate simpler and more secure integration with third-party systems and devices for our automation customers. This will help them achieve even greater visibility into and control of their manufacturing enterprise by making it easier to broaden and deepen their system reach,” said Jeff Harding, Chief Software Architect, Process Automation, ABB Inc. “In addition to this improved visibility and information access, OPC UA helps increase the reliability and security of third-party systems through the standardization of state-of-the-art technology.”

OPC UA is an expansion of the highly successful basic OPC communication protocol; it enables data acquisition and information modeling/communication between the plant floor systems and enterprise systems. The Unified Architecture is designed specifically to allow object and information models defined by others (vendors, end-users, other standards ...) to be exposed without alteration by OPC UA Servers. OPC UA works with System 800xA's unique object-based architecture to provide deep integration with disparate plant systems and other third-party devices and components via a standard interface, eliminating the need for additional configuration. It essentially automates third-party integration with System 800xA. The standard interface also integrates third-party servers more securely, and with better reliability than prior generation OPC interfaces.

ABB's patented Aspect Object framework is the enabling technology for System 800xA's data access, storage, and management. Aspect Objects relate all plant data, the Aspects, to specific plant assets, the Objects. This eliminates the cumbersome task of locating information spread

between different people, locations, computers, and applications. Aspect Object navigation presents the entire production facility in a consistent, easy to view fashion, accessible from a single user interface that is configured to present information and provide interaction in a context appropriate to all user disciplines.

System 800xA significantly extends process control and enterprise visibility well beyond the realm of essential process control to include production management, safety, smart instrumentation, smart drives and motor control, information management, asset optimization, simulation and documentation. System 800xA integrates these areas so that information can be viewed, accessed, and appropriately modified from its **single** operations environment so that plants/mills can run more efficiently and achieve substantial cost savings. Its unique engineering environment manages **one** set of consistent data, for single-point entry, single-point change, and re-use across the plant to help users extend and repeat their most successful engineering strategies and best practices. System 800xA Extended Automation was chosen by *Control Engineering* magazine to receive an Editors' Choice Award as one of the best products introduced in 2004.

The OPC Foundation is dedicated to ensuring interoperability in automation by creating and maintaining open specifications that standardize the communication of acquired process data, alarm and event records, historical data, and batch data to multi-vendor enterprise systems and between production devices. Production devices include sensors, instruments, PLCs, RTUs, DCSs, HMIs, historians, trending subsystems, alarm subsystems, and more as used in the process industry, manufacturing, and in acquiring and transporting oil, gas, and minerals.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 105,000 people.

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