



## **The platform organization IAONA enlarges with new partners**

**Magdeburg, 08.03.2004. The memorandum of understanding which was established in the end of 2000 between IAONA as platform organization, IDA-Group and ODVA - the content of which was a common strategy for Industrial Ethernet - was now renewed and enlarged by the organizations ETG, EPSG and SERCOS.**

The growing trend to Industrial Ethernet brings with it a multitude of different and partially proprietary solutions. However, through the work of IAONA and its partners it can be achieved, that developments which serve users and providers commonly, can be done homogenously and all-embracingly. Both IAONA Installation Guide and IAONA Handbook for Network Security bear witness to this.

Against this background an open board meeting of IAONA was organized in Ann Arbor, USA, in mid-February 2004 which was open to all relevant organizations for Industrial Ethernet. During this meeting, a common understanding for a future strategy was achieved by the participating organizations Ethernet Powerlink Specification Group (EPSG), EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG), Interests Group SERCOS Interface (IGS), Modbus-IDA, and ODVA which led to a renewed and enlarged Memorandum of Understanding. This step allows these organizations to commonly cover topics on the platform of IAONA which do not have to be dealt with individually. This serves both the interests of users and providers as they do not have to deal with many different specifications. Topics which are covered within the frame of the MoU are Security Aspects, Cabling, the use of IEEE 1588, and System Aspects.

Thus, the Joint Technical Working Groups (JTWGs) of IAONA obtain the task to work out together with the partner organizations specifications and proposals for standards. By the MoU, these JTWGs are open to all members of all partner organizations and the partner organizations will also be represented within IAONA's Technical Steering Committee (TSC).

By this step IAONA and its partner organizations underline the idea of a neutral communication platform as it is provided by IAONA, which will become more and more in the interest of users and providers with an increasingly complex technology. IAONA will, thus, be even more capable to drive forces toward a harmonized Ethernet.

The Memorandum of Understanding will be signed officially by the partner organizations April 21<sup>st</sup>, 11:00h at the booth of IAONA on Hanover fair (Stand B69, Hall 11).

Printing free, evidence asked for.

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