

PRESS RELEASE

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Connectivity initiative leads to first applications

VDW launches umati brand for standard interface

Stuttgart, 19 September 2018. - VDW Chairman Dr. Heinz-Jürgen Prokop unveiled the new umati brand at AMB Stuttgart. This should give greater visibility to the industry initiative Connectivity for Industry 4.0 which was launched exactly one year ago during EMO Hannover 2017. The initiative is also presenting the first applications for the future standard interface. "These applications show that the connectivity initiative is now on a stable footing," says Prokop. And that's why it was high time we gave the child a name."

Standard taking on concrete form

The name umati stands for **universal machine tool interface**. "As a brand, it is open, future-oriented and internationally connectable," said the VDW Chairman. Project progress can now be tracked at www.umati.info on the Internet.

The demo applications which are on display at the AMB Stuttgart were developed by a core team of eight renowned machine tool suppliers together with the major German control manufacturers. Within one year they have established more than 100 parameters which serve as the basis for developing the common interface. The working group was also able to define

21 use cases for the new standard interface for machine tools based on the open OPC UA communication protocol.

The companies involved in the initiative integrated an appropriately configured OPC server into their respective machine control system and were "able to connect to the respective communication partner and exchange data in a very short time," Prokop was pleased to report. Up to now it has been very time-consuming and costly to get machines from different manufacturers to communicate with each other on a single production line.

The first connections to various controls – for example for vertical lathes, rotary transfer machines, gear milling and grinding machines and for a complete turning/milling machining centre – will be on display in Stuttgart. "Our purpose with these applications is to demonstrate that our solution can be used to implement robust systems in which data can reliably be exchanged with machine tools," explained the VDW Chairman. "We ourselves are also keen to gain practical experience as early as possible and learn from the challenges which emerge."

Internationalization making good progress

Launched as a purely German working group, international cooperation has, however, always been the goal of the industry initiative. The initiative is attracting a great deal of attention worldwide. Talks are currently taking place with our American sister association AMT, for example. Their open interface MTConnect is to be adapted to the umati concept where possible. Japan, China and South Korea have also expressed interest in the new standard. "We regularly report on the project progress at meetings of the European Machine Tool Association Cecimo, and are keen to include other interested companies in the initiative," said Prokop.

Significantly, the VDW joined the OPC Foundation (the OPC UA sponsor) in June. "At the turn of the year, we will set up a Joint Working Group with the OPC Foundation," Prokop announced. "The international machine tool community will then be able to participate in revising and disseminating the standard. This feedback on customer needs from all over the world will bring

us a further important step closer to our goal of creating a uniform, globally accepted connectivity standard."

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Background

The German machine tool industry ranks among the five largest specialist groupings in the mechanical engineering sector. It provides production technology for metalworking applications in all branches of industry, and makes a crucial contribution towards innovation and enhanced productivity in the industrial sector as a whole. Due to its absolutely key role for industrial production, its development is an important indicator for the economic dynamism of the industrial sector as such. In 2017, with most recently over 72,000 employees (status at the end of 2017, firms with more than 50 staff), the sector produced machines and services worth around 16.1 billion euros.

Picture:

Logo umati



<https://de.industryarena.com/vdw>



<http://www.youtube.com/metaltradefair>



<https://twitter.com/VDWonline>