

PRESS RELEASE

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***umati* demonstrating global data connectivity
at EMO Milano**

**Standardized interfaces allow development of products
across the entire value chain**

Frankfurt am Main, Milan, 5 October 2021. – *umati* will be on display in Hall 7 at EMO Milano, connecting up more than 50 machines from all over the world, almost half of them remotely. Using the updated *umati dashboard*, anyone interested can follow live to see what these machines, connected via the standardized OPC UA for Machine Tools interface, are doing right now and how they are working. The presentation is part of an international program which the VDW is staging to promote the *world language of production*.

"After making our first appearance over two years ago in Hanover, we are delighted that we are finally back in a face-to-face setting – and with such an impressive demonstration," said Dr. Heinz-Jürgen Prokop, Chairman of the VDW, welcoming his guests to the international *umati event* in Milan on 5 October 2021. In his status report, he emphasized: "The most important milestone in the development of the OPC-UA Interface for Machine Tools was the publication of the specification almost exactly one year ago. It is now available free of charge worldwide, meaning that all companies that manufacture, use or offer software for machine tools can now develop and refine their products based on this specification," said Prokop, outlining the current situation. The machine tool specification was also the first to be published which referenced

the overarching specification for the entire machine and plant engineering industry, the OPC UA for Machinery," continued Prokop.

OPC UA for Machinery offering major gains in efficiency

The Machine Tool Group is contributing to develop this harmonized specification. Above all, it ensures the standardization of a certain set of data relevant to the entire mechanical and plant engineering sector. The first step concerns the identification of the machine. In terms of digital nameplates, the type of machine is basically irrelevant. All machines have a manufacturer, serial number, date of manufacture, date of acquisition, location, etc. Thanks to *OPC UA for Machinery*, technology-specific specifications now no longer have to worry about identification but can concentrate fully on rendering the relevant technology-specific data. The next step in development involves harmonizing the operating states of machines, as these, too, could be used at a higher, more universal level. This example impressively highlights the gains in efficiency for manufacturers and machine users offered by OPC UA for Machinery.

To promote the use of these open standards is the mission of *umati*. By now, this community and marketing initiative is no longer aimed exclusively at the machine tool industry, but at the entire machine and plant engineering sector. *umati* currently has almost 200 partners, including more than 160 companies. These are machine manufacturers, software providers and users. Woodworking machinery, surface technology and glass machines are part of *umati* with their own OPC UA specifications.

Version 2 of OPC UA for Machine Tools targeting the automotive industry

The first version of the *OPC UA for Machine Tools* aimed to create a data set that is universally applicable to all machine tools. A subgroup of the Joint Working Group for Machine Tools is currently working on standardizing additional analysis data for KPI evaluations. "This will also transfer a large part of the machine and production data which the automotive industry already uses to our open interface," predicted Prokop. This should make it easier for machine tool manufacturers to gain acceptance for the open interface from their

main customer group in the future. The specification is scheduled for publication in the first quarter of 2022.

Plans for connection of IT, MES and ERP systems

The market success of interfaces depends on the existence of machines and software that are equipped with the corresponding interfaces, or that can process them. "Customers are already asking when their IT, MES or ERP system will finally be able to process the standardized data," said Prokop, addressing the discussion. "We have been working on this problem with a number of high-profile partners for a while now. SAP, for example, has offered us support in staging live demonstrations on many occasions. Here at EMO Milano today we are pleased to announce the first production-ready interface implementations in well-known MES systems in conjunction with our partners mpdv and IGH-Infotec," he announced.

Overall, *umati* is attracting great interest and meeting with approval worldwide. In Milan alone, 11 machines from Chinese manufacturers are connected via the cooperating NC Link in China. "The gratifying response is spurring the machine manufacturers and the *umati team* on to persevere in the marathon task of developing such a standardized interface," concluded Prokop.

Background

umati (universal machine technology interface), supported by the VDW and VDMA, is the international community for the dissemination and implementation of OPC UA standards in machine and plant engineering. The goal of *umati* is to implement different OPC UA specifications in a uniform manner, thereby allowing the manufacturers of machines, components and software to offer genuine plug-and-play solutions to their engineering customers and users. Manufacturers and users are joining forces to promote the use of open interfaces in the production environment. This facilitates the communication of machines and systems with each other and allows them to be integrated into customer- and user-specific IT ecosystems – simply, seamlessly and securely. For further information please visit www.umati.org.

Images:

Dr. Heinz-Jürgen Prokop, Chairman of the VDW

Global locations of the machines connected to the *umati dashboard* (for details, see umati.app)

This press release can also be obtained directly from <https://vdw.de/en/umati-demonstrating-global-data-connectivity-at-emo-milano/>

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