

Contact Dirk Bösel
Phone +49 69 66 03-1150
E-Mail dirk.boesel@vdma.org
Date 16.10.2018

Connecting the world of scales

- **Scale manufacturers develop universal, manufacturer-independent communication interface**
- **Initial meeting of the international working group of VDMA and OPC-Foundation**
- **Cooperation with CECIP and international associations**

Frankfurt, 16. October 2018 – „Scales are used in many areas and practically along the entire value chain in order to optimize processes, increase productivity, and also to comply with legal regulations. To fulfill these tasks, scales must be able to communicate with various systems in the value chain“, says Markus Heseding, Managing Director of VDMA Measuring and Testing Technology. Standardized interfaces reduce the effort in the process and production environment for manufacturers as well as integrators and plant operators.

This project was initiated by leading scale manufacturers in conjunction with the VDMA to develop a standardized open and manufacturer-independent interface for weighing instruments in OPC UA format (Open Platform Communication - Unified Architecture). The University of Stuttgart has been commissioned to develop the specification. The Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) has been involved right from the beginning due to the special boundary conditions for the approval and calibration of weighing instruments.

The initiative was officially registered with the OPC Foundation, the umbrella organization for the development of interoperability standards for industrial automation, as an international Joint Working Group (JWG) in the middle of this year.

The JWG "VDMA OPC Weighing Technology Initiative" as joint working group of the VDMA and the OPC Foundation started its work on 16.10.2018 with a first kick-off event. The participants of the meeting unanimously elected Mr. Schibli, Manager Industry 4.0 and IIoT, Mettler-Toledo, Division Industry, as chairman of the working group.

Aim of the project is the development and standardization of an universal, manufacturer-independent OPC UA information model for the communication of weighing instruments and systems with peripherals and other higher-level devices or systems in the respective manufacturing, research, logistic and sales processes.

The information model that will be developed is described in the so-called "OPC UA Companion Specification". The scope of the OPC UA Weighing Technology Companion Specification is to exchange relevant data for information and diagnostic purposes as well as to set configuration and production parameters for various applications. The interface also provides type-specific data of different weighing instruments or systems.

The standardization enables a broad and international application of the open communication interface. Therefore, the initiating manufacturer group has already started a close exchange of information with CECIP, the European Association of Weighing Instruments Manufacturers, at an early stage. CECIP supports the project with its member companies. Further international partner associations have been invited to cooperate on the new standard.

The first version of the specification is scheduled for release in spring 2019.

Do you have any questions? Please contact Dirk Bösel, VDMA Measuring and Testing Technology, Phone 069 6603 1150, dirk.boesel@vdma.org

VDMA Measuring and Testing Technology represents more than 180 member companies. These are small and medium-sized companies that serve numerous niche markets around the world. The industry generates sales of just under 7.1 billion euros (2017) and employs around 30,100 people in Germany.