

### Softing has Announced the Availability of its Groundbreaking OPC UA Development Toolkits

**Softing AG, July 2009** - Softing, the world leader in providing conformant OPC Development Tools, has announced its new **OPC Unified Architecture (UA) Toolbox V5.00** that will be available in Q4, 2009. With more than 1600 companies that rely on Softing's OPC development kits to generate thousands of compliant OPC products, Softing holds the lion's share of the world-market for OPC development tools.

The OPC UA Toolkits are designed to assist software engineers to elegantly implement effective OPC Clients/Servers or to embed high-performance OPC UA technology directly into target devices like PLCs, DCS systems, or operator panels. One of the major advantages of OPC UA is its independence from the Windows operating system. Softing's engineering team took advantage of this fact and has already ported its OPC UA software to Linux and VxWorks!



The new OPC UA Development Kit has two flavors:

- **OPC UA Toolkit C++:** This extremely powerful and versatile development kit is designed to implement dedicated, high-performance OPC products or for embedding OPC UA technology into a target device.
- **OPC UA Toolkit .NET:** This development kit guarantees the rapid development of conformant OPC UA client or server products that seamlessly integrate with standard Windows development tools like Visual Studio 2008.

Softing's uncompromising commitment to quality is reflected in the fact that its OPC UA software has been stringently field-tested by several high-profile customers. During this process, Softing continually optimized the software to achieve the outstanding performance and robustness level demanded by Softing's quality standards. In addition, Softing's commitment to continually improve its OPC toolkits will protect the investment of OPC developers using Softing's toolkits.



Softing has taken great care in designing its OPC development tools to manage today's legacy requirements, while at the same time ensuring the easy migration from OPC DA, AE, and HDA to the current OPC UA specification. A built-in upgrade path for OPC products that are based on Softing's OPC Toolbox V4.2x provides for an easy migration to the new OPC UA technology without any noteworthy changes to the products.

All major benefits of using OPC Toolkits from Softing are summarized below:

- Assures OPC Compliance - The use of an OPC Toolkit assures that your OPC product is compliant with the latest OPC specification. Softing is an active member of the OPC UA CTT (Compliance Test Tool) working group and frequently tests its OPC Toolkits in OPC interoperability workshops.
- Reduces Time-to-Market and Development Costs - OPC Toolkits significantly reduce the development time of an OPC Server or Client by allowing the developer to concentrate on transmitting data and not on learning the ins and outs of the new OPC UA technology.
- Reduces Maintenance Cost - Softing's OPC Toolkits include a 1-year maintenance agreement. The benefits of this agreement include developer to developer support and free updates to the OPC Toolkit to ensure continual compliance to the ever evolving OPC specification.
- Improves Data Throughput - OPC products that are based on Softing's toolkit libraries consistently outperform competing OPC products since Softing's libraries have been uncompromisingly optimized for robustness and data throughput.
- Development Services - Softing's experienced software development team can help to embed OPC UA technology into a target device or develop an OPC product (OPC Client or Server) for Ethernet, fieldbus, or serial protocols. Softing is a recognized OPC Competence Center.

Many companies have factored-in Softing's extensive experience with embedding OPC technology into industrial components. For example, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratory (SEL) stated, *"Softing's OPC kits are essential when it comes to developing Web applications. With Softing's development kits, our developers were able to focus on their project goal instead of OPC-specific components of the application."*

Thomas J. Burke, President and Executive Director of the OPC Foundation, states the following: *"Softing's expertise and experience in providing industrial communication products and developer training in all facets of automation inclusive of OPC is being extended to fully embrace the OPC Unified Architecture. I've personally had the opportunity to attend a number of events/training sessions that Softing provides or has participated in, and I can say without hesitation that the quality and integrity of Softing's offer is outstanding. I look forward to watching Softing be one of **the premier providers enabling other vendors to successfully adopt and deploy OPC Unified Architecture products based on the products and services that Softing has to offer.**"*

### About Softing

In industrial automation, Softing is a specialist for fieldbus technology and has established itself as a world-leading partner for networking automation systems and control solutions. Softing provides customers the key technology to connect devices, controls, and systems with the leading communication technologies. In fieldbus technology, Softing is a world-class expert for FOUNDATION™ fieldbus, PROFIBUS, and CAN/CANopen/DeviceNet. The company's wide range of expertise includes solutions for OPC, FDT, and Real-Time-Ethernet protocols such as, PROFINET IO, EtherNet/IP, and Modbus/TCP. Many of the products and services developed by Softing since the company was founded in 1979 have become reference standards throughout the world. In addition, Softing has established itself as a provider of sophisticated diagnostic tools for fieldbus systems.

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