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Invensys Operations Management Supports Suppliers Unified for Field Device Integration

DECEMBER 15, 2009 – PLANO, TEXAS - Invensys Operations Management, a global provider of technology systems, software solutions and consulting services to the process and manufacturing industries, today announced that to accelerate deployment of field device integration (FDI) technology, it has joined other key suppliers to enlarge the scope of the EDDL Cooperation Team and become part of the FDI Cooperation.

The FDI Cooperation will initially consist of the FDT Group, Fieldbus Foundation, HART Communications Foundation, OPC Foundation and PROFIBUS Nutzerorganisation, as well as ABB, Emerson, Endress+Hauser, Honeywell, Invensys Operations Management, Siemens and Yokogawa.

“We need to continue supporting the move to a more open and integrated perspective in the plant because it allows manufacturing and process operations executives to make profitable tradeoffs in real time,” said Rashesh Mody, senior vice president, portfolio and strategy, Invensys Operations Management. “That is why we are fully supportive of the FDI project. In addition to being a strong benefit to users, it is also a benefit to vendors because now we can strengthen our focus on providing value-added applications as opposed to supporting hundreds of different devices.”

Invensys also believes the FDI project will create a more user-friendly, hardware-independent choice for manufacturing operators. With FDT, the definition files provided by instrument vendors are plug-ins to the field device manager framework. This eliminates the need for manufacturers to rely on hundreds of independent diagnostic applications supplied by multiple vendors and the need for distributed control system (DCS) vendors to supply diagnostic applications for all available devices. The real value, however, is that with FDT, the device type manager advanced applications all vendors write can now plug in to any DCS. Customers can use these diagnostics for predictive maintenance, saving millions of dollars in unnecessary downtime and maintenance costs.

The FDI project was kicked off at the 2007 Hanover Fair. At that time, ECT welcomed FDT Group with the primary objective of harmonizing EDDL and FDT/DTM technologies. Since then, the project has carefully shaped the technology direction for the converged FDI solution. The addition of supplier companies, who have agreed to support FDI packages in their systems and products, will strengthen this effort by providing resources for the completion of this project.

Besides the finalization of the FDI specification, which is scheduled for mid 2010, the scope of the enlarged EDDL Cooperation Team is covering common design and test tools, common binary format and interpreter across the protocols of HART®, Foundation™ Fieldbus and PROFIBUS.

The intent is to assure a uniform device integration solution for process industries across all host systems, devices and protocols as required by end users.

About Invensys Operations Management

Invensys Operations Management, a division of Invensys, is a leading provider of automation and information technology, systems, software solutions, services and consulting to the global manufacturing and infrastructure industries. Headquartered in Plano, Texas, its solutions are used by more than 40,000 clients around the world in more than 200,000 plants and facilities.

Invensys Operations Management's offerings are delivered under several prominent industry brands, including Action Instruments, ArchestrA, Avantis, Barber-Colman, Chessell, Continental, Eurotherm, Foxboro, IMServ, InFusion, SimSci-Esscor, Triconex and Wonderware. The company's approximately 9,000 employees and its global partner ecosystem integrate these products and services to help clients collaborate across systems and enterprises in real time, extracting critical data to make faster, better decisions and synchronize their operations from the plant floor to the executive offices, aligning production goals with business objectives. To learn more about Invensys Operations Management, visit iom.invensys.com.

Invensys plc (www.invensys.com) is headquartered in London and is listed on the London Stock Exchange (ISYS.L), with approximately 20,000 employees working in 50 countries.

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