

PRESS RELEASE

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OPC UA moves into international forming technology
***umati* presents new Companion Specification at Blechexpo 2023**

Frankfurt am Main, November 7, 2023 - From November 7 to 10, 2023, Blechexpo invites all experts in sheet metal working to Stuttgart for the exhibition. *umati*, the joint connectivity initiative of the VDW (German Machine Tool Builders' Association) and VDMA (Mechanical Engineering Industry Association), will also be exhibiting in Hall 9/Stand 9502. Dr. Alexander Broos, Head of Research and Technology and Project Manager of *umati* at the VDW, on the participation: "Metal forming and related technologies are an important part of the machine tool and metalworking industry. They are therefore important key segments on the way to cross-industry connectivity in manufacturing. Blechexpo is the established showcase in southern Germany for exhibiting machines, tools, processing systems and joining and bonding technologies – for *umati* it is a must-attend event."

At the international trade fair for sheet metal working and forming technology, the *umati* team will be presenting the latest development of OPC UA for machine tools for the first time: the new Companion Specification OPC 40503 "UA for Metal Forming". A joint multinational working group has developed a new standard specifically for the needs of metal forming technology. The standard references the OPC 40501-1 "UA for Machine Tools" specification and is aimed at the following use cases, among others:

- Provision of OPC UA for machine tool use cases using the Machine Tools Facets
- Access to repetitive forming data and cyclical monitoring
- Access to characteristic forming positions and cyclical monitoring
- Provision of information on tool-specific parameters for metal forming
- Provision of process values from functional work units in connection with the forming process
- Cyclical monitoring of specific order parameters
- Cyclical monitoring for shape-specific information
- Notification if certain forming conditions occur during processing

A total of twelve companies and associations were involved in the working group: Aida, Amada, AP&T Group, Fanuc, Japan Forming Machinery Association, Komatsu, Mitsubishi Electric, Muratec, Osterwalder, Schuler Group, SMS Group and Trumpf. Domenico Iacovelli, CEO Schuler Group and Member of the Executive Board Andritz Group, comments on the significance of the development: "The standardization of interfaces is the foundation for efficient automation of production plants. Schuler was gladly willing to take over the leadership of the working group and to contribute its know-how and experience in order to advance the standardization of forming lines together with the VDW. We expect to standardize and reduce the number of different interfaces for connecting forming plants to Level 2 or Level 3 systems, and thus to increase efficiency both on the part of the machine suppliers and on the part of the Level 2 and Level 3 software manufacturers. In the future, we will equip all lines with a gateway that meets the OPC UA Companion Specification for Metal Forming."

Anyone interested can find out more about the background, technology and benefits of open, standardized data interfaces for mechanical engineering directly from the *umati* team at the *umati* stand during Blechexpo. Various exhibits will also make it possible to directly experience how mature the technical solution has become, including for production technology outside of metal-working. Further information is available in advance at <https://umati.org/>.

(Length: 3,516 characters including spaces)

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umati: connecting the world of machinery

umati (universal machine technology interface) is the global initiative for open communication interfaces for the mechanical engineering industry and its customers. Machine builders, software manufacturers, component suppliers and users come together to form a strong community to promote the use of open, standardized interfaces based on OPC UA Companion Specifications. *umati* ensures their identical implementation, offers a platform for exchanging experiences, creates visibility in the market and demonstrates the added value in practice at <https://umati.app>.

umati enables the exchange of data between machines, components and systems and their integration into customer and user-specific IT ecosystems - simply, seamlessly and securely.

umati is supported by VDW and VDMA and is based on OPC UA, a communication framework between devices on the store floor. Standardized data models defined in OPC UA Companion Specifications can be easily extended with customer- or manufacturer-specific data. Around 25 Companion Specifications have already been published for mechanical engineering for various technologies such as robotics, measuring systems, plastics and rubber machines, woodworking, machine tools, etc. 30 more are in development. A further 30 are under development. In addition, the central Companion Specification "OPC UA for Machinery" contains basic building blocks that are crucial for the entire machinery and plant engineering sector, e.g. identification, order control, energy monitoring.

Further information: <https://umati.org>.
Contact: info@umati.org

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<https://vdw.de/presse-oeffentlichkeit/pressemitteilungen/>

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