ODVA Announces Formation of Special Interest Group for EtherNet/IP™ in the Process Industries

Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA – November 17, 2014 — ODVA announced today that it will form a new special interest group for EtherNet/IP in the process industries. The SIG will leverage the inherent strengths of EtherNet/IP to develop enhancements to The EtherNet/IP Specification to address three key use cases for automation applications in the process industries: (1) field device-to-industrial control system (ICS) integration; (2) field device-to-plant asset management (PAM) integration; and (3) a holistic field-to-enterprise communication architecture.

The formation of this SIG is one outgrowth of ODVA’s process initiative which is aimed at the optimization of process integration (OPI™). The SIG’s scope of work is founded on the overarching vision to proliferate adoption of EtherNet/IP in the process industries, and will focus initially on the integration of field devices with industrial control systems and related diagnostic services. The work of the SIG will result in a unified communication approach to process applications, enhancing the ability of users to exchange information to and from the field. The work of the SIG is expected to be completed in phases generally aligned with the key use cases.

“ODVA’s SIG for EtherNet/IP in the process industries will provide ODVA’s members with a venue to concentrate on technical requirements often unique to process applications,” said Katherine Voss, president and executive director of ODVA. “The result will provide users in all production domains of industrial automation – discrete, hybrid and process - with a feature rich and future proof solution using EtherNet/IP.”

ODVA will issue its call for SIG participants in December 2014 with an organizational meeting of the SIG to be held in the first quarter of 2015. Participants in the SIG are expected to include individuals from ODVA’s principal members - Cisco Systems, Endress+Hauser, Rockwell Automation and Schneider Electric – in addition to other participants from ODVA’s 300+ member companies. ODVA will be providing more information on OPI, as it relates to the scope of work to be addressed by the SIG, at its
media briefing to be held on November 25, 2014 in conjunction with the SPS IPC Drives Show in Nuremberg, Germany.

**About ODVA**
Founded in 1995, ODVA is a global association whose members are comprised of the world’s leading automation companies. ODVA’s mission is to advance open, interoperable information and communication technologies in industrial automation. ODVA recognizes its media independent network protocol, the Common Industrial Protocol or “CIP™” – and the network adaptations of CIP – EtherNet/IP™, DeviceNet™, CompoNet™ and ControlNet™ – as its core technology and the primary common interest of its membership. For future interoperability of production systems and the integration of the production systems with other systems, ODVA embraces the adoption of commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) and standard, unmodified Internet and Ethernet technologies as a guiding principle wherever possible. This principle is exemplified by EtherNet/IP – the world’s number one industrial Ethernet network.

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