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Modbus Organization and IDA Join Forces

Hopkinton, MA (October 15, 2003)— After a year of successful cooperation, the Modbus Organization and IDA Group have decided to join forces in recognition of the alignment of their goals and vision of the future of industrial communication and automation. Modbus-IDA is the result of the agreement between members of both organizations to form a single organization.

Modbus Organization, a U.S. nonprofit trade group, is a membership organization of users and suppliers of Modbus-based devices. Modbus protocol is the most common Ethernet protocol in automation, used in field devices for a wide variety of control and automation applications.

IDA Group was formed in Germany and has been engaged in developing a multivendor standard for distributed intelligence using Ethernet TCP/IP as the universal communications standard. As an element of the IDA standard, Modbus is fundamental to this vision for the future of distributed automation solutions. Modbus-IDA will continue both organizations' work in the use of Internet technologies to integrate communications services, Web functions, interoperability, and safety.

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Ken Crater, president of Modbus Organization, commented, “The combination of the organizations into Modbus-IDA opens up a variety of important opportunities that capitalize on the ubiquitous Modbus protocol and further expand the power of integrated, compatible communications for industrial control.”

Martin Jetter, president of IDA, added, “The merger will give Modbus-IDA a strong position in the international market. The bundling of the two organizations’ technical and marketing resources will further the mission more effectively and efficiently. With a vision that includes a seamless interconnection from the simplest field applications up to highly complex automation architectures, Modbus-IDA will be attractive for users and suppliers of Ethernet-based automation solutions.”

Modbus-IDA will be headquartered in the United States. Two members of IDA will be nominated for seats on the Modbus-IDA Board of Directors. IDA’s technical working groups will continue their activities under the leadership of Modbus-IDA and the new entity will continue IDA’s cooperative relationships with IAONA, ODVA and PNO. Additional information may be found on the organization's website at www.modbus-ida.org.

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