OPC Foundation
Board of Directors' Election 2024/2025

Candidates

Andreas Faath, VDMA

Managing Director
Machine Information Interoperability (MII)

Introduction Person

Andreas Faath, VDMA, Manager Machine Information Interoperability is responsible for the Interoperability activities including OPC UA. Regarding OPC UA he manages the development of the so called "Global Production Language" in which more than 600 companies worldwide are involved. This positions him as an important contact for the international mechanical and plant engineering industry regarding OPC UA standardization and intelligent production. Due to the close cooperation with numerous companies in the mechanical and plant engineering industry, he represents their wishes and requirements in those fields. Due to the strong international political networks of the VDMA, Mr. Faath was successful to introduce the OPC UA activities into the global politics. Prior to his employment at the VDMA, Mr. Faath studied mechanical and plant engineering and was a scientist at the Technical University of Darmstadt with focus on Digitalization and IIOT. Afterwards he worked in research and development.

Introduction Company

The Mechanical Engineering Industry Association, VDMA, represents globally around 3,300 member companies, making it the largest industry association in Europe, maybe the world. It has international offices in China, Japan, India, Russia, Brazil, Austria and Brussels. The Association represents worldwide the interests of the predominantly medium-sized companies in the mechanical engineering industry towards policymakers and society, as well as towards business, the scientific community, public authorities and the media. In the field of OPC UA, the VDMA hosts more than 35 OPC UA Companion Specification working groups and has involved over 600 companies from all over the world. Thus, the VDMA is the voice and the global gravitational center for the development of OPC UA Companion Specifications for the mechanical and plant engineering industry. The association was founded in 1892.

My motivation as a candidate for the board

I would like to support the OPC Foundation by joining the Board of Directors, to promote the adaptation of OPC UA Companion Specifications and to focus more on the needs of OPC UA users. In addition to the technical interoperability of OPC UA, my goal is to strengthen the semantic interoperability through OPC UA Companion Specifications and to promote adaptation and harmonization worldwide.
I will use my network on the one hand to anchor OPC UA even more strongly in politics and on the other hand to better integrate user requirements into the activities of the OPC Foundation. Due to the numerous standardization projects in which the VDMA is involved, I will act as a mouthpiece for the European and international mechanical and plant engineering industry.

Thomas Hahn, Siemens

Chief Expert Software

SIEMENS

Introduction Person

Since 2011 Chief Expert Software. Joining 1986 Siemens after study computer science. Developer for industrial networks. 1993 product management for SIMATIC and project manager for SIMATIC STEP7. 1997-1999 head of development Traffic Control Systems. 1999-2011 head of software development for Industrial Automation Systems. Member in several associations/initiatives e.g., VP OPC Foundation, President Big Data Value Association, VP Gaia-X, Chairman of the Labs Network Industrie 4.0, Openlab CERN and Steering Committee Platform Industrie 4.0.

Inside Siemens supporting technology and strategy topics with relation to IIoT/Industrie 4.0 and related topics (e.g., AI). External I`m active in several initiatives worldwide such as for examples described above.

Introduction Company

Siemens is a technology company focused on industry, infrastructure, transport, and healthcare. From more resource-efficient factories, resilient supply chains, and smarter buildings and grids, to cleaner and more comfortable transportation as well as advanced healthcare, we create technology with purpose adding real value for customers. By combining the real and the digital worlds, we empower our customers to transform their industries and markets, helping them to transform the everyday for billions of people.

My motivation as a candidate for the board

Digitalization needs interoperability, interoperability needs standardization and therefore IoT standards such as OPC-UA including description of systems (companion specifications) are very relevant to support the digitalization of different industries!
Having the honor to be since 2012 board member of the OPC Foundation, serving as Vice-President of the OPC Foundation and supporting the further development of the OPC Foundation/OPC technologies in the last years is also my mission for the next years!
With my network, with my work and with my expertise I`m more than motivated to support as board member the very successful OPC Foundation further!

Ziad Kaakani, Honeywell

CTO, Honeywell Process Solutions, Services Business

Honeywell

Introduction Person

Mr. Kaakani has been with Honeywell Inc. since 1988. He has held various positions in Honeywell Corporate Labs, Aerospace, and Honeywell Process Solutions (HPS). In 1998 Mr. Kaakani worked on implementing a Honeywell Communication Infrastructure toolkit based on the first OPC Foundation Data Access specification.

In 2005 Mr. Kaakani was the architect and then a development manager for Honeywell's Experion control system. Currently Mr. Kaakani holds the position of Chief Technology Officer (CTO) leading the HPS Lifecycle Solutions and Services R&D organization. His team is responsible for driving product strategies, invocations, architecture and realization of solutions related to HPS Systems business which includes OPC adoption. Mr. Kaakani is based in Phoenix, Arizona, and holds a Masters in Electrical Engineering, minor in Computer Science, from the University of Minnesota.

Introduction Company

Honeywell Process Solutions (HPS) is a Business Unit of Honeywell International. HPS helps industrial customers around the world operate safe, reliable, efficient, sustainable and more profitable facilities. HPS offers leading technologies from the plant floor to the boardroom as well as comprehensive lifecycle services that help to ensure more productive and stable operations. HPS has pioneered process automation control for more than 40 years with a continuous evolution from legacy process control systems to today's leading innovations such as Experion® PKS, protecting our customers' investments in automation assets. HPS has the global expertise and breadth of resources to execute projects of every size and complexity in the oil and gas, refining, pulp and paper, industrial power generation, chemicals and petrochemicals, biofuels, life sciences, and metals, minerals and mining industries.

My motivation as a candidate for the board

Mr. Kaakani said, "It is an honor to have served on the OPC Board of Directors since 2014. The OPC Foundation continues to innovate in its versatile, open and secure connectivity protocol. The OPC Foundation has a proven record in driving interoperability in a multitude of industries including industrial control. OPC UA is a transformative standard used in solutions that produce products that have positive impact on our everyday lives. I look forward to my continued engagement and advancement of this important multi-vendor, multi-industry initiative."

Holger Kenn, Microsoft

Director of Business Strategy

Introduction Person

As Director of Business Strategy in Microsoft's Business Development, Strategy and Ventures organization, Holger is responsible for defining and implementing strategy and investments in artificial intelligence, mixed reality and silicon ranging from tiny edge devices to global datacenter networks. In previous roles at Microsoft, Holger worked in customer-facing roles in embedded systems and IoT and in software development roles on embedded real-time technology and hypervisors. Before joining Microsoft, Holger held several academic positions in wearable computing, robotics and AI research. He holds a PhD in computer science and has more than 20 years of experience in embedded systems, artificial intelligence, and the software industry.

Introduction Company

Microsoft enables digital transformation for the era of an intelligent cloud and an intelligent edge. Its mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more. Over many years, Microsoft has been a member of the OPC Foundation and has worked with many partners along the value chain of industrial automation, embedded systems, and software. Microsoft Cloud for Manufacturing is designed to deliver capabilities that support the core processes and requirements of the industry. These end-to-end manufacturing solutions include released and new capabilities that seamlessly connect people, assets, workflow, and business processes, empowering organizations to be more resilient. The OPC UA protocol and technology stack is one cornerstone of our strategy to empower our partners and customers on their journey towards digital transformation.

My motivation as a candidate for the board

As in my previous term, I will represent the viewpoint of the software industry on the OPC board but also understand the viewpoints of our partners in the industrial automation industry. Since customers and partners in industrial manufacturing require holistic solutions that cover the requirements of both OT and IT, the OPC Foundation presents a unique opportunity to collaborate with the leading companies to define industry-wide standards for the benefit of the entire ecosystem.

Shinji Oda, Yokogawa

Chief Standard Officer

YOKOGAWA

Introduction Person

Shinji Oda is Chief Standard Officer (CSO) and General Manager, Technology Marketing of Yokogawa Electric Corporation in Tokyo, Japan. He is responsible for Yokogawa's strategy in international standardization and consortia activities.

Shinji joined Yokogawa in 1986 and played a vital role in developing successive Yokogawa DCS, CENTUM, such as the project leader of CENTUM CS3000 from 1999 to 2002. He also has international experience. From 2002 to 2005, he served as the head of the Development Center in the US, and from 2009 to 2014, he served as the head of the Development Center in Singapore. He has been in his current position since April 2014. He also served as the Chairman of OPC Council Japan from 2008 to 2009.Shinji has a Bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Tokyo. He is the Japan National Committee of IEC Systems Committee Smart Manufacturing (IEC SyC SM) chairperson.

Introduction Company

Yokogawa provides advanced solutions in the areas of measurement, control, and information to customers across a broad range of industries, including energy, chemicals, materials, pharmaceuticals, and food. Yokogawa addresses customer issues regarding the optimization of production, assets, and the supply chain with the effective application of digital technologies, enabling the transition to autonomous operations. Founded in Tokyo in 1915, Yokogawa continues to work toward a sustainable society through its 17,500 employees in a global network of 119 companies spanning 61 countries. Web site: www.yokogawa.com

My motivation as a candidate for the board

I have served as a Board Member of the OPC Foundation for five years since 2016. And Yokogawa has been a Board Member for about 20 years, including my predecessors. As a representative of the vendors in Asia, I have contributed to the development of OPC technology and promoted it in the region. In particular, as the leader of the Japan OPC Council, we have upgraded the recognition of OPC UA in Japan and gathered nearly 500 people at the OPC Day in Japan 2020. We will continue to act as a pioneer in the Asian area and will continue to provide input from the regional characteristics to develop OPC technology. I am also an international expert and Japan's representative on the IEC Systems Committee Smart Manufacturing, responsible for standardizing OPC UA as one of the fundamental technologies for Smart Manufacturing. I believe that I can help promote the further spread of OPC UA by reflecting the contents discussed in the international standard in the activities of the OPC Foundation.

Li Ruilin, Innovance

Vice President/CTO

Introduction Person

Li Ruilin, CTO of Inovance Technology Co., Ltd., Vice President of R&D system, He led the group company's R&D system reform and built a large-scale R&D system of Inovance. He used to work as a research and development executive at Emerson, and has more than 20 years of R&D management experience in the fields of electronic information, power electronics, industrial automation and intelligent manufacturing.

Introduction Company

Inovance Technology Co., Ltd. focuses on automation, intelligence, and digitization in the industrial field, concentrating on the core technologies of information layer, control layer, driver layer, execution layer, and sensing layer. After 18 years of steady development and a high proportion of research and development investment, the company has achieved leading advantages in core technologies such as automation control systems, instruments and process control systems. The company was listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange ChiNext in September 2020, with stock code 300124. The company was listed on the ChiNext board of the Shenzhen Stock Exchange in September 2020, with stock code 300124. It has more than ten subsidiary companies both domestically and internationally, with over 20000 employees, including 4K employees in the R&D management department.

My motivation as a candidate for the board

In my past job experience, I have always been deeply involved in the R&D and management of intelligent manufacturing, process control, and industrial automation systems. I hope to rely on my industry experience and social networks to contribute to the technological development of OPC and interoperability standards in the Asian region. I will be committed to achieving efficient and secure exchange of enterprise information between diversified supplier platforms. I look forward to participating in and promoting OPC, which is a strategic project of great significance to us.

Dr. Xiong Wei, Huawei

VP, Huawei Computing

Introduction Person

Dr. Xiong Wei joined Huawei in 2014 and worked as the chief architect of the server OS platform in Huawei 2012 Laboratories. He was responsible for OS architecture design and technical guidance and construction of the open source community. In 2023, as Vice President of Huawei Computing Product Line, he was responsible for building full system software stacks, including operating system, database, and compiler tool chain, middleware and development toolkit. Mr. Wei Xiong is also responsible for designing application scenario-oriented solutions. Mr. Wei Xiong is also responsible for industry ecosystem development. He is a member of the openEuler open-source Community Technical Committee and vice president of the Open Atomic Open Source Foundation Technical Oversight Committee. Before joining Huawei, he worked as an R&D leader in Wind River Systems, Inc, responsible for developing embedded operating system products. And develop customized operating system solutions for different industries scenarios. Mr. Wei Xiong graduated from Nankai University with a Doctor degree in automatic control in 2004.

Introduction Company

Founded in 1987, Huawei is a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices. We have 207,000 employees and operate in over 170 countries and regions, serving more than three billion people around the world. We are committed to bringing digital to every person, home and organization for a fully connected, intelligent world.

My motivation as a candidate for the board

The convergence of IT, CT, and OT has gradually become a trend. In this process, the software stack, especially the system software stack, plays a unique role. The system software such as operating system, becomes the link between hardware, protocols, and applications. I hope that I can leverage my experience in operating system and system software solutions to help OPC in protocol definition, software stack implementation, and industry solutions, and promote the arrival of a new era of link everything. At the same time, promote the landing of OPC UA in China and lead more Chinese companies to participate in the OPC industry ecosystem.