

## **Molex reinforces alliance with the CC-Link Partner Association Commits to CC-Link as CLPA Board Member, aiming at expanded business in Asia**

The US corporation Molex (headquarters: Illinois, USA) and the CC-Link Partner Association (headquarters: Nagoya, Japan), which exists for the purpose of promoting the widespread usage of the industrial open network CC-Link, are pleased to announce that Molex has become a CLPA Board Member, reinforcing their collaborative relations. Through active participation in CLPA management, Molex aims to expand its business in the Asian region, where CC-Link is increasingly widely adopted.

### **■ Background for the reinforced alliance**

Molex is involved in the development and sales of products including connectors and board assembly components of all types, remote I/Os, and gateways among others. It is known in particular for the breadth of its connector business, providing over 100,000 types of connectors for electronic devices, optical fiber connections, switches and PC cards. The new duties as a CLPA Board member will be taken up by Molex's Industrial Communication division, responsible for industrial network-related products.

Molex has been an active member since the inception of the CLPA, including its development of CC-Link-compatible PCI boards et al. With a clearly stated policy of expanding business in the rapidly growing Asian region, Molex is now focusing anew on CC-Link, which is particularly widely adopted within the region. In order to clarify its stance of positive commitment to CC-Link, Molex applied for membership of the CLPA Board, a request which has now been formally recognized by the CLPA.

As a CLPA Board member, Molex will play a leading role in new CC-Link technical development and in marketing activities aimed toward further acceptance. As well, with regard to CLPA activities, the added collaboration of a corporation with a major global presence in industrial network solutions is expected to strengthen CC-Link's product lineup expansion and further widespread adoption.

### **■ CLPA Board**

The CLPA Board is a core organization which takes a leadership position in various decisions regarding CLPA activities. Aiming for adoption of CC-Link at the global level, the Board (originally composed of four Japanese manufacturers and two American manufacturers) welcomed China's Shanghai Electric Ryoden Energy Saving and Control Technology Co. Ltd. in June 2012 and Germany's Balluff in September 2013, achieving an increasingly globalized management organization. The participation of the US-based Molex as the ninth Board member will further this trend.

## ■ CC-Link and CC-Link IE

CC-Link is an open field network standard originating in Japan, developed in 2000 by industry members including Mitsubishi Electric Corporation. Achieving accurate control of devices and equipment at production sites through high-speed, reliable and deterministic control, CC-Link not only contributes to increased production efficiency but also allows the integration of information networks.

2007 saw the release of CC-Link IE, integrating Ethernet as the de facto standard among computer networks. It is unique in offering 1 Gbps communication speeds while, enabling the use of general-purpose Ethernet cables and connectors, dramatically increasing performance and flexibility.

## ■ CC-Link Partner Association

The CC-Link Partner Association is an open network promotion organization established in 2000 for the promotion of the widespread usage of CC-Link. Its main activities include the formulation of CC-Link technical specifications and the conduction of conformance tests, development support for devices and equipment using CC-Link, user support for device selection, and public relations for the wider acceptance of CC-Link. The CLPA, which began with 163 corporate members, has expanded yearly and, as of the end of October 2014, boasts 2,192 members, of whom 1,545 are overseas corporations.

### Contact for inquiries

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