Surface mount technology equipment communication protocol standardization subcommittee's launch

At the Japan Robot Association, enterprises who manufacture surface mount technology (SMT) equipment and related software launched the SMT equipment communication protocol standardization subcommittee in order to establish protocols for sharing information by communication methods between SMT machines (M2M cooperation). A ballot was held, and the elected subcommittee chairman for the first year is from Fuji Machine Manufacturing Co., Ltd. and the vice subcommittee chairman is from Panasonic Corporation, with the board of governors comprising representatives from member corporations including Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd., JUKI CORPORATION, along with OMRON Corporation, Saki Corporation, TAMURA CORPORATION, and CKD Corporation. The twenty member companies shown in table 1 will work together to advance this standardization.

In a traditional SMT production line, there are various machines such as printers, inspection machines, placement machines, and reflow ovens, along with connecting conveyance machines. These machines typically come from different manufacturers. Because the format of printed circuit board data in each machine and how to communicate with other machines is unique for each company, the user is the one that must spend the time and money when they want to manage information consistently for entire lines.

Once this subcommittee has standardized protocols for communication between various machines from SMT production lines, systems can be created in which users can easily implement placement systems that extend beyond the boundaries of companies. Some merits of this include facilitating production management and hastening support for variable-volume variable-mix production. Manufacturing companies will also have opportunities to create new value offerings because of the ease of M2M cooperation.

From these actions, we are contributing to the development of the SMT market of the future.

CKD Corporation	Musashi Engineering Inc.	Saki Corporation
Fuji Machine Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	Mycronic Corporation	Senju Metal Industry Co., Ltd.
JUKI CORPORATION	Nagaoka Factory Corporation	TAMURA CORPORATION
KOH YOUNG TECHNOLOGY INC.	NAGOYA ELECTRIC WORKS Co., Ltd.	Test Research, Inc.
Komatsu Electronics Co., Ltd.	OMRON Corporation	Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd.
Marantz Electronics Ltd.	Panasonic Corporation	YS Co., Ltd.
MIRTEC JAPAN Co., Ltd.	Parmi Co., Ltd.	*Note: In alphabetical order*

Table 1: SMT equipment communication protocol standardization subcommittee member company list