

Today's News 8/07: Tektronix Automated Compliance Test Suite for High Speed Serial Standards to Utilize NI TestStand™ From National Instruments Test Modules Will Be Based On Open, Flexible Platform

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Tektronix, Inc. , a leading, worldwide provider of test, measurement and monitoring instrumentation, announced it will develop an automated framework designed for receiver, transmitter, and interconnect compliance testing of high speed serial data standards using NI TestStand test management software from National Instruments . NI TestStand provides an open and flexible development environment, providing a platform for Tektronix and other companies to create effective test solutions.

The combination of Tektronix instruments and the open nature of NI TestStand software gives customers a platform to rapidly characterize new products and bring them to market faster. The increase in data rates is making design efforts even more challenging as signaling capabilities are being bound by physical limitations. Technologies continue to emerge to address this challenge but added design complexity and constantly changing standards create even greater design challenges that can hinder time to market and increase development cost. Several new serial data bus architectures including PCI-Express, XAUI, RapidIO, HDMI and SATA provide an order of magnitude greater data throughput than possible only a few years ago. With so much complexity and change, Tektronix will provide a test solution that will help it to bring new products to market quickly and provide clear benefits to customers.

"The combination of growing multi instrument test complexity and the need for measurement efficiency and speed are the primary catalysts for developing automated compliance test suites," said Lynne Camp, vice president, performance plus instruments, Tektronix. "Customers want to reduce the time required for the mosaic of critical tests needed to achieve industry compliance. These companies desire an automated test suite that is error tolerant, uniform in implementation and that offers execution speeds an order of magnitude greater than that available today. We chose NI TestStand because of its reputation as the standard in test management software and because it provides an open and flexible platform to meet these requirements."

Tektronix will use NI TestStand as its test execution engine. NI TestStand is designed to help engineers develop and deploy automated validation and manufacturing test systems. By partnering with National Instruments and utilizing a proven, open and extensible platform, Tektronix will be able to more rapidly bring automated compliance test modules to market. Leveraging the modular architecture of NI TestStand, Tektronix will benefit from maximum test code reuse and simplified maintenance. Customers will benefit from robust compliance test solutions for industry standards without the needing to develop one-off code sets.

"We're very pleased with Tektronix's decision to use NI TestStand for the development of its advanced automated compliance test suites," said John Pasquarette, director of software marketing at National Instruments. "This decision demonstrates the value of NI TestStand as a modular, COTS, test management platform. By leveraging the NI TestStand compatibility, our joint customers will be able to integrate the Tektronix compliance test suite into their existing test software deployments."

Availability

Automated compliance test software based upon NI TestStand is in development. Contact christopher.j.loberg@tek.com if interested in learning more about this joint program.

About NI TestStand

NI TestStand is the industry standard test management environment for automating test and validation systems. NI TestStand is used to develop, manage and execute test sequences, which integrate test modules written in any test programming language, through an open and flexible architecture. NI TestStand automates test result reporting, database logging and connectivity to other enterprise system. NI TestStand is designed to maximize test-code reuse through built-in language adapters and simplify maintenance by using a modular and fully customizable test-system framework.

About National Instruments

National Instruments (<http://www.ni.com/>) is transforming the way engineers and scientists design, prototype and deploy systems for measurement, automation and embedded applications. NI empowers customers with off-the-shelf software such as NI LabVIEW and modular cost-effective hardware, and sells to a broad base of more than 25,000 different companies worldwide, with no one customer representing more than 3 percent of revenue and no one industry representing more than 10 percent of revenue. Headquartered in Austin, Texas, NI has more than 4,300 employees and direct operations in nearly 40 countries. For the past eight years, FORTUNE magazine has named NI one of the 100 best companies to work for in America.

About Tektronix

Tektronix is a leading supplier of test, measurement, and monitoring products, solutions and services for the communications, computer, and semiconductor industries -- as well as military/aerospace, consumer electronics, education and a broad range of other industries worldwide. With 60 years of experience, Tektronix enables its customers to design, build, deploy, and manage next-generation global communications networks, advanced and pervasive technologies. Headquartered in Beaverton, Oregon, Tektronix has operations in 19 countries worldwide. Tektronix' Web address is <http://www.tektronix.com/>.

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