

## **IPC-Hermes-9852: IPC has officially recognized The Hermes Standard to be the Next Generation Standard for machine-to-machine communication in mixed vendor lines in electronics assembly**

IPC has now confirmed that they recognize The Hermes Standard to be the successor to “the SMEMA Standard” IPC-SMEMA-9851. Accordingly, The Hermes Standard was assigned an IPC naming code: It can now officially be referred to as IPC-HERMES-9852.

This strong acknowledgement means a lot for further enhancements of the global footprint and acceptance of The Hermes Standard. With The Hermes Standard having shown an impressively fast start from early drafts to worldwide awareness, it is now entering the second stage in global market penetration.

Customers and vendors alike will strongly benefit from this new level of standardization progress. Obstacles with regards to implementing “smart factory” features will be dramatically reduced or removed. Electronics manufacturers joining the movement will see another strong boost in their long-term competitiveness.

## **SMEMA and The Hermes Standard: Two generations of machine to machine communication**

“SMEMA” - as it usually referred to – is documented in IPC-SMEMA-9851 became an IPC standard already in 1999 when SMEMA merged with IPC to form the IPC SMEMA Council. Back then, IPC-SMEMA-9851 represented the state of the art in technology ready for tough industrial use and has since then developed into the only globally established standard for handover of PCBs along mixed vendor SMT lines.

The Hermes Standard was introduced only in March 2017. It includes all features of SMEMA regarding board handover but addresses a far wider range of additional requirements related to board handling. In fact, The Hermes Standard combines leading edge technologies and established standards into a completely new generation solution. It was developed and introduced to the market by The Hermes Standard Initiative, an independent and open group of leading vendors of SMT assembly equipment.

Deliberately designed as an open standard based on TCP/IP and XML, it features a clear and straight forward communication protocol. These elements were the foundation for both a quick start into the market and a future-proof design that eases the implementation of further features covering additional requirements.

## **The Hermes Standard Initiative and IPC: “Friends, not foes”**

Since The Hermes Standard was released, both IPC and The Hermes Standard Initiative share the same understanding that The Hermes Standard drives in the right direction to bring digitization to the PCB flow management. It was clear to all that the previously existing standard IPC-SMEMA-9851 cannot be simply “enhanced” to meet the requirements of an Industry 4.0-environment. Having looked into the details of The Hermes Standard specification everybody agreed that this new standard provides what it takes to be a suitable next generation solution for SMEMA, offering a migration path into the world of “smart factories”.

So there was a very close cooperation between IPC and The Hermes Standard Initiative from the very beginning. This was set forth when it was found that the new IPC standard for vertical integration,

IPC CFX, and The Hermes Standard are a perfect match when it comes to fully integrated communication in a mixed vendor SMT factory.

### **The Hermes Standard in the IPC naming scheme: IPC–Hermes-9852**

In order to give a strong statement of mutual trust and confidence, IPC decided in full agreement with The Hermes Standard Initiative to assign the IPC number IPC-HERMES-9852 to The Hermes Standard protocol definition. Having incremented the SMEMA “number” IPC-SMEMA-9851 by one, the code IPC-HERMES-9852 poses the clear message of The Hermes Standard being officially considered the new generation standard.

Further, it implies that the SMEMA standard will remain an official standard as there are many operational installations in the field which will be further available.

### **IPC-Hermes-9852: The Hermes Standard will remain an open standard and free of charge**

However now having an official IPC naming code does not change anything in the nature of the The Hermes Standard itself. Both IPC and The Hermes Standard Initiative are convinced that further deployment of the standard will be strongly accelerated by maintaining the concept of a free and open standard. This will allow more and more equipment vendors to enter the movement in shorter time. With a broader penetration however, the mutual benefit of a standard is apparently exponentially enhanced further for all users.

### **The Hermes Standard Initiative members will keep up their successful approach of global cooperation**

The same applies for the processes and structures within The Hermes Standard Initiative: IPC acknowledged explicitly the efficient and effective approach as pursued by the Hermes Standard Initiative in defining and establishing the standard. Therefore, The Hermes Standard Initiative will maintain its setup as a fully vendor driven initiative and keep its approach to global cooperation based on a mix of remote “online discussions” and regular meetings. Within the IPC, it will have the status of an independent working group with own responsibility for further development of The Hermes Standard, issuing new releases of the standard one to two times per year.

All results and new releases will be available at IPC’s “Connected Factory Initiative” (IPC CFX) homepage as well for download and updated 1-2 times per year. This new homepage will be launched in July 2018.

For the next meeting of The Hermes Standard Initiative - already earlier planned to take place in San Diego one day before IPC APEX expo 2019 - IPC offered to host the event, providing a meeting room at the fair ground.

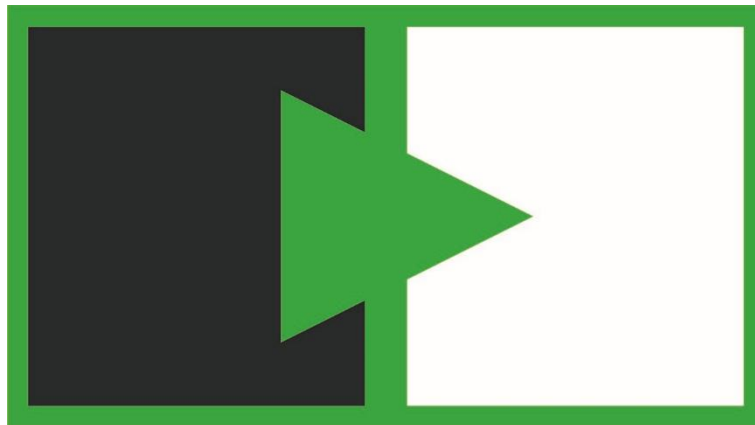
### **Next Steps and plans**

The Hermes Standard Initiative members clearly recognize this as a great leap forward towards smooth connectivity in mixed vendor SMT lines. Ongoing development activities and current evaluations will be taken forward at full speed in order to further expand the market presence.

As an IPC standard, it is now easier for end customers to include IPC-HERMES-9852 in their internal purchasing rules and requirement specifications. In turn, it is now even more rewarding for vendors to finally join The Hermes Standard Initiative and to start own product developments and customer projects.

### **Digitalization and Industry 4.0: IPC-HERMES-9852 makes a difference on the way ahead**

IPC-HERMES-9852 brings the power and opportunities of digitalization to the PCB board flow level. Finally, the foundation layer of any automation solution in electronics assembly is now certified being ready for Industry 4.0.



# **IPC-HERMES-9852**

The global standard for "M2M" in SMT assembly