



## EDDL success at Intermac 2007

Electronic Device Description Language (EDDL) also known as the IEC 61804-3 standard was demonstrated at the Measurement and Control Show 2007 TOKYO (aka Jemima/Intermac)

7-9 November, Tokyo Big Sight (Tokyo International Exhibition Center, Ariake), Tokyo, Japan

<http://expo.nikkeibp.co.jp/jemima/english/>

EDDL is the device integration technology that has enabled a single handheld field communicator or software to configure most of the instruments in a plant, from most manufacturers, in most parts of the world, from a single tool since 1992 and is incorporated as an integral part of HART, FOUNDATION fieldbus and PROFIBUS protocols. EDDL became an international standard in 2004. This international standard was recently enhanced with graphics and better menus to also support advanced setup and diagnostics of more sophisticated devices. Thus software and tools based on IEC 61804-3 now support all phases of the plant life-cycle using a single device integration technology. EDDL has remained largely unknown until now. Only after international standardization has the technology been brought into the spotlight in its own right.

The effort at this conference was to introduce this new international standard to Japan as the technology to integrate standard communication protocols and make plants aware how they can improve results using standard fieldbus and EDDL.

## Booth

EDDL was demonstrated in the same corridor as HART, PROFIBUS, and OPC together with Fieldbus Foundation all of which are members of the EDDL cooperation team. EDDL is the only international standard for device integration and in ideal way to manage devices based on these protocols from a single software.



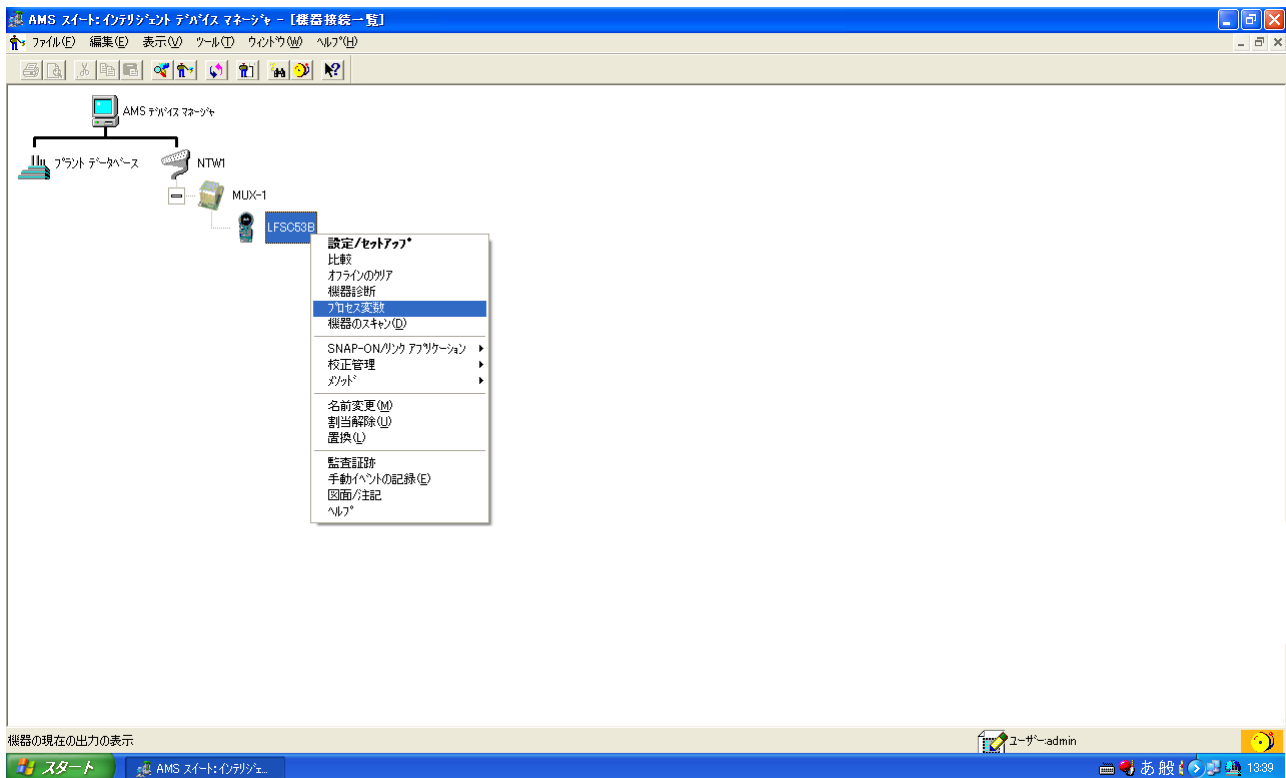
The interoperability demonstration included a mix of different kinds of devices, protocols, and software tools from different suppliers interoperating thanks to EDDL. Visitors to the booth included several leading Japanese EPCs and end-users who got to witness how tools such as device management software part of asset management systems, handheld field communicators, and laptop software based on EDDL are able to setup, calibrate, and diagnose devices of different levels of complexity with a particular emphasis on "wizards" to coach user step by step so as to avoid mistakes and to make complex tasks easy. Also demonstrated was functionality such as exporting data to Excel as well as calling up information related to the device or process location, such as manuals and drawings.

A topic that was brought up by several visitors to the booth is about who determines how a device is displayed; device manufacturer or system manufacturer. The answer is that the device display is controlled by the device manufacturer and this was demonstrated by showing the distinction between "look & feel" as opposed to "content & structure". The device manufacturer determines the "content & structure", for example what diagnostics information the device should display and where in the menu it shall be located. The system manufacturer has no control over this, only the "look & feel", for example this size and color of the buttons. This ensures the device is displayed the way its manufacturer wants it to.

Another important demonstration was how device fault detection is done. Technicians do not monitor status bars for individual device, to detect failures, because there are too many devices. Instead, the system has automatic alert monitoring that detect failures or degrading performance and warns the technician. Once notified by the system, the technician opens the diagnostics screens for the device. That is, most of the time the technician is freed up to do other tasks, not monitoring status bars.

## EPC

The EPCs visiting the booth identified several characteristics of EDDL that are beneficial to them. Over and above the benefits for plant technicians, the EDDL characteristics of interest for the EPCs include lower cost since there is no license key cost for device support and associated license key management effort but most importantly that they only need to master one single technology and one single set of files to manage for computer software and handheld field communicator. EPCs were also interested in the faster commissioning possible since field communicators are easy to use on the plant floor for commissioning, and because setup up of sophisticated devices like radar level transmitters and variable speed drives is simplified thanks to the powerful graphics. The field communicators also simplify field work such as pressure transmitter zeroing and valve positioner stroking. Among the most critical advantages noted are the ability to email the small EDDL files for newer version devices that inevitably appear on site later in the project. And the ease whereby the files are added to the system avoiding conflicts between device types.



## Conference

The conference included a short paper entitled "*Unleashing Power in Your Devices - Using IEC 61804-3 EDDL*". The first part of the paper set the record straight on the myths surrounding EDDL by showing how EDDL is capable of graphics and wizards, and provides help and document access. This makes EDDL the ideal technology also for advanced setup and diagnostics of sophisticated devices, thus expanding the scope of EDDL in the maintenance and operations phase.



The later part of the presentation focused on the results that can only be obtained using EDDL thanks to the unique features of EDDL such as OPC server configuration, robustness, security, Fieldbus configuration, handheld field communicator support, consistent display of devices, no device version conflicts, no Windows version conflicts, easy upgrade and integration, and no license key etc.

For more information go to [www.eddl.org](http://www.eddl.org)