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MacKintok Is An MTConnect Institute Partner

MacKintok Information Architects & Designers, a Syracuse, New York software company that designs web based applications for machine tools and manufacturing has been named an Institute Partner of the MTConnect Institute.

The MTConnect Institute is an organization that develops and provides open standards intended to foster greater interoperability between manufacturing controls, devices and software applications by publishing data over networks using the Internet Protocol (IP). The standards offer a solution to the exchange of data from shop floor devices to higher level systems. For membership information, visit www.MTConnect.org.

MacKintok recently designed and created a new, state-of-the- art MTConnect web site. This new web site features a complete redesign and includes news and information about MTConnect, a list of Institute members, a special section for developers and more.

The new web site is the result of 6 months of intense work and collaboration. MacKintok Information Architects and Designers are unique in that they are MTConnect members and also have a broad array of capabilities, including web site design. Dave Edstrom, President and Chairman of the Board for the MTConnect Institute said, "The new MTConnect web site will allow us to do things that we could never do before to promote MTConnect and collaborate with our members. We could not be more pleased with our relationship with MacKintok, as well as the quality of the new MTConnect web site."

Ken Tock and Gary Bronson, principals of MacKintok were the lead architects in creating the new MTConnect web site and will work jointly with the MTConnect Institute for updates. The new MTConnect web site is based on Umbraco, which is an open-source content management system and is used to run more than 110,000 web sites, including Wired, Fox and Microsoft, to name just a few.

Some improved features of the new MTConnect web site include:

• Directory of MTConnect members, including their services, experience, products and contact information
• User-friendly navigation

• Robust site-wide XML-based search function
• Improved video player interface

Future upgrades to the website will include social media and news feeds, an MTConnect case studies section and a training and learning center.

The new web site also includes historical information about MTConnect, as well as a list of MTConnect's business and technical benefits. Edstrom continued, "The entire manufacturing community can benefit from this groundbreaking, open and royalty-free communications standard called MTConnect. Shop owners, plant managers, manufacturing equipment manufacturers, software developers and anyone who wants to learn more about this open standard absolutely must visit the new MTConnect web site to see everything it has to offer."

The new MTConnect web site was designed to go live in conjunction with the [MC]2 MTConnect: Connecting Manufacturing Conference. In addition to the overall upgrades in usability and navigation, the new web site will support the many hours of video content that will be generated at [MC]2.

Prior to being made an Institute Partner MacKintok has participated as an MTConnect Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Member and will continue to do so in the future. As a TAG member of the MTConnect Institute MacKintok has voting rights and Implementer rights, and participates on the MTConnect Institute's Technical Advisory Group and in committee activities assigned by the MTConnect TAG to address specific work efforts. MacKintok is a member of numerous Working Groups which include: the Standard Working Group, the Machine Tool Working Group, the Notifications Working Group, the Robotics Working Group and the Certifications Working Group.

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