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## **Establishment of SERCOS Japan, and Open Architecture**

The phrase "Think Global, Act Local" means that we must consider issues from a broad perspective, but actually proceed with work in our own areas. Our company's philosophy, "We SANYO DENKI make the dreams of people come true for the happiness of people in cooperation with people" is an example of global action, while the establishment of SERCOS Japan to promote open architectures is an example of local action. Sanyo Denki has helped to make the establishment of SERCOS Japan a success.

In August of last year, we received a request from Mr. Jacobs, Director of IGS (the core organization of SERCOS, based in Germany) to "coordinate the establishing of SERCOS Japan to promote SERCOS in Japan." Our president and C.E.O., Yamamoto, willingly agreed and I was appointed to take charge.

SERCOS is the only internationally approved network for connecting various actuators (servo motors, linear synchronous motors, hydraulic servos, etc.) to controllers. Our products, such as "S-MAC", "PZ", and "PQ", are equipped with this interface. This network utilizes optical fibers to transmit cyclic data at high rates of 2MHz, 4MHz and 16MHz (under development) and provides servo amplifiers with an ID control function.

Regarding the establishment of SERCOS Japan, the choice of first president was a difficult one. Prof. Ryuji Wada of Setsunan University (Doctor of Engineering and former Executive Director of Toyoda Machine Works, an FA network MAP promoter, and a key person in Japan's FA open architecture promotion group called "Open System Environment for Controllers (OSEC)") kindly accepted the position, commenting, "There is an old Chinese saying, 'Start with yourself'. Rather than numerous fruitless discussions, it is more constructive to reach specific milestones in open architectures. We must join hands and start with ourselves." His agreement to take the position was a tremendous step.

Toyoda Machine Works, Rexroth Automation, Fuji Machine Manufacturing, Motion Engineering, Nikkei Business Publications and Sanyo Denki were the six promoter companies that won approval from IGS during Hanover Messe '98. Then in June 17, 1998, members from 39 companies gathered at a conference room of Ikebukuro Metropolitan Hotel for the official inauguration of SERCOS Japan. The

tripartite organization consisting of IGS in Europe, SERCOS N. A. in North America, and SERCOS Japan in Japan, will combine forces to promote open architectures.

Although open architecture is natural and what the customers want, it is difficult to achieve. This is because although the possibility of one robot or machine being able to utilize a combination of motors from various manufacturers has great potential, it is a threat to us manufacturers.

We believe that SERCOS is not the only route toward open architectures, for other open networks such as DeviceNet and Windows 95 and 98 software are other possibilities. We are also considering making our object-oriented control language AML open to our customers. But without doubt, software will play a key role in future efforts toward open architectures.

As a member of SERCOS Japan, Sanyo Denki will promote FA open architectures and SERCOS under our guiding corporate philosophy.

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