

The Institute for Lab Automation and Mechatronics Pushes SiLA Forward

The Institute for Lab Automation and Mechatronics knows the difficulty and challenge of interfacing different devices and systems within a lab. In fact, one of their main work areas is the cooperative research and development with industry partners to introduce new high-tech solutions to the market. A critical part of their success is keeping current skills and awareness of technical evolutions and trends, with the SiLA lab automation standard being one important component.

Lukas Müller, Project Leader at HSR-ILT, explains the motivation behind his institute's involvement in SiLA, listing six reasons for their membership:

1. Boost automation and simplify workflows in laboratories
2. Stay up to date with the SiLA standard
3. Bring our experiences back to the standard to help enhance its quality
4. Reduce barriers for companies getting started with SiLA
5. Obtain corporate contacts to arrange new cooperative R&D projects (SiLA-related or otherwise)
6. Serve as one of the independent future SiLA test sites, reviewing SiLA implementations for conformity

The Institute for Lab Automation and Mechatronics has already been instrumental in moving the SiLA standard forward. Among their cooperative projects is an open source library, [SPICE](#), designed to make SiLA integration simple and affordable. SPICE, which stands for **SiLA Provider Implementation Community Equipment**, was commissioned by Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd. in Allschwil, Switzerland. The library lowers the barrier for manufacturers to fully integrate SiLA within their devices, not just with drivers on a computer. It is written in C++11 and is publicized under the boost-license, making it commercially and freely available. The Institute also offers the [SiLAConverter](#), a low-cost computer carefully arranged to run a SiLA interface (based on SPICE) on legacy equipment. The product allows manufacturers to test the market with SiLA without installing yet another driver.

It has been a pleasure having HSR-ILT as an Academic Member of SiLA. The community looks forward to their continued involvement in SiLA's working groups as well as in the Open Source and Test Site Initiatives.

For more information, visit www.ilt.hsr.ch/.



Available Open Source SiLA Products

Since Fall 2015, SiLA Members and non-Members have been developing open source SiLA products to decrease the barriers for standards adoption. Check out these open source contributions which can also be found on the SiLA website under [Initiatives](#):

[SiLA Driver Reference Implementation](#)

For use as the foundation to any SiLA driver

[SiLA Device Simulator](#)

Provides a virtual SiLA device to test a SiLA Consumer

[SiLA Converter for ThermoFisher Scientific MultiDrop®](#)

Hardware base for legacy equipment

[SiLA Library \(SPICE\)](#)

Enables driver-free SiLA implementations

[SiLA-compliant Open source Fast Intelligent Application \(SOFIA\)](#)

Reference implementation of PMS Consumer

Save the Date

SiLA's calendar is filling up! Come visit us at the following events:

- **7th SiLA Annual Conference**
Basel/Switzerland, Sept 19
Hosted by Novartis Pharmaceuticals
- **BLSW/MipTec 2016**
Basel/Switzerland, Sept 20-22
Booth A45
- **ILMAC 2016**
Basel/Switzerland, Sept 20-23
Lunch & Learn Keynote
- **Lab Automation & Robotics 2016**
Berlin/Germany, Nov 8-9
Keynote Presentation
- **SiLA Training**
Fraunhofer-IPA (Stuttgart), Nov 7-9

Basel Life Science Week Offers Several SiLA Presentations

SiLA is pleased to have such a global presence throughout BLSW this September. Begin by joining the 7th annual [SiLA Conference on the campus of Novartis Pharmaceuticals](#). Enjoy a catered lunch and **tour of the campus** in addition to the day's lineup of presentations from academia, industry, and end users. To submit an abstract, please visit page 1 of this newsletter.

SiLA continues the week by giving the keynote presentation at [ILMAC's Lunch & Learn](#). The event is focusing on the principles of Industry 4.0 and how laboratories can benefit from these values.

Finally, SiLA will exhibit at MipTec 2016 **Booth A45**. We hope to see you there!