

## Thank You Again



When SISCO looks back on 1997, we will see a year that has been marked by a number of important successes for SISCO and our custom-

ers. We have worked successfully with a number of you to incorporate UCA and MMS technology into your devices using our new products for embedded systems (see page 2). And, we've just released an exciting new version of our AX-S4 MMS product that makes integrating real-time data with your desktop application easy (and fun) via our innovative MMS Object Explorer (see page 3). We also have many new and exciting things in store for you in 1998!

However, we have not forgotten the real reason for our success: YOU, our customers. We know that our only path to success is by helping you be successful with your customers. All of us at SISCO will continue to work hard to ensure yours, and our, success in 1998!

Jon Martin  
President

## SISCO's ICCP Toolkit Helps KCP&L Project Advance Utility Integration Technology

The Kansas City Power and Light (KCP&L) project represents a potential quantum leap forward in the arena of information exchange for the electric utility industry. The project is part of the Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI's) CIMAPI project and represents the first attempt to standardize a publish/subscriber based technology for use within the industry.

SISCO is participating with several other companies including KCP&L, Configured Energy Systems, Incremental Systems, Applied Software Technology, KEMA, and Transactional Network Solutions.

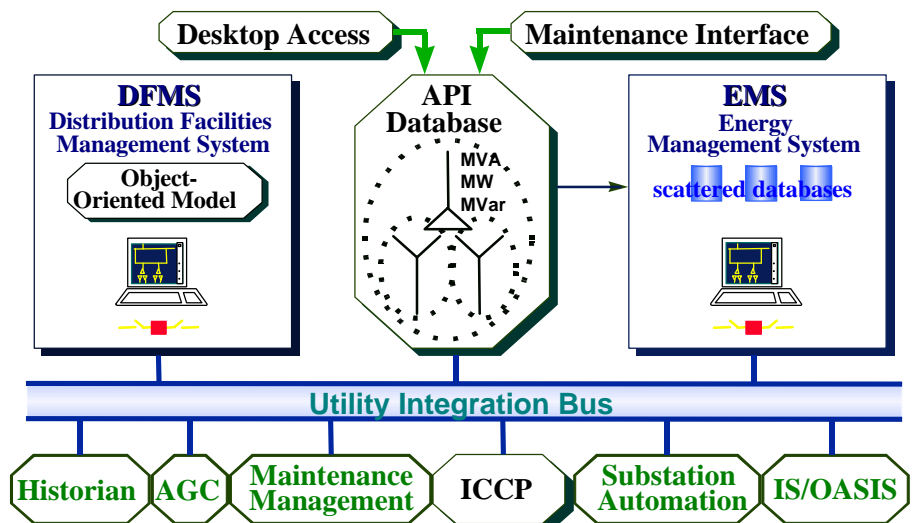
The initial objective of the project is to allow standardized information bus

interchange of real-time data and control while minimizing configuration maintenance.

The overall objective is to allow a scalable information exchange. The exchange is structured such that the information/content is conveyed in a generic and scaleable manner. This enables new information definitions to be added and exchanged transparently.

The Utility Integration Bus (UIB) represents a set of integration services that can be used over different distributed communication technologies (CORBA, DCOM, RDBMS, etc.) in a consistent and transparent manner.

See *KCP&L Project*, page 2



## Inside...

- MMS-EASE Lite for Embedded Systems
- MMS-EASE V7.00
- MMS Object Explorer
- UCA Starter Kit
- SISCO's Employee Edge

## DA/DSM DistribuTech '98

Tampa Bay, Florida

January 13-15, 1998, SISCO will be participating in a multi-vendor demonstration of UCA products. A number of UCA products will be networked together across the show floor to exhibit the flexibility and productivity of UCA technology. Come see us at Booth #1231.

# KCP&L Project

*Continued from page 1*

This design philosophy will allow different organizations to expose information that needs to be shared using whichever communication technology is the most robust and cost effective.

The initial deployment of the UIB, within KCP&L, will be used to exchange EMS/SCADA information from an ABB EMS system to an Incremental Systems UIB interfaced ICCP front end designated PowerICCP. The PowerICCP product makes use of the SISCO ICCP Toolkit and will be used to exchange information with the regional ISN center.

The system will be functional by January 1, 1998. This initial implementation will be used to provide design and implementation feedback on the services and Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) developed. Pending review and revision, the service and API specifications will be submitted to both the EPRI CIMAPI working group and to IEC TC57/WG 14 as a candidate for standardization.

For more information on SISCO's ICCP Toolkit for MMS-EASE, view or download product literature from our web site at <http://www.sisconet.com/iccp.htm>.

## MMS-EASE *Lite* is being used for EMBEDDED Systems

MMS-EASE *Lite* is operational and in the field, being successfully used to build embedded systems such as the following:

- RTUs (Remote Terminal Units)
- Singleboard Substation Controllers
- Power Quality Meters

OEMs are using MMS-EASE *Lite* to meet the unique requirements of embedded systems such as operating system independence, memory management, and resource limitation issues.

Designed specifically for embedded environments to minimize CPU and memory requirements and maximize performance, MMS-EASE *Lite* has done just that by allowing MMS to be embedded within small devices. Because of this, MMS-EASE *Lite* has met our customer's requirements for a cost effective and resource efficient solution.

# MMS-EASE V7.00

MMS-EASE, SISCO's powerful real-time API has once again been upgraded to provide added value to MMS developers. Used to develop MMS/UCA applications such as ICCP, SCADA, and other host system applications, MMS-EASE continues to offer many advantages.

- High-level "virtual machine" functions for processing MMS objects automatically without complex programming
- Interoperability with many other MMS devices and implementations
- Supports up to 1000 simultaneous active connections
- Multiple-platform support
  - Windows 95/NT
  - IBM RS/6000 AIX
  - Sun SPARC Solaris
  - DEC Alpha OpenVMS
  - DEC Alpha Digital Unix
  - HP 9000 HP-UX
- TCP/IP support
- Support for multiple network adapters
- UCA Profile Support
  - 7-Layer TCP/IP or OSI
  - Trim-7
  - 3-Layer Reduced Stack

Plus, V7.00 includes the following:

### Multi-Threaded Support

Multi-Threaded Support provides the ability to run more than one MMS-EASE thread within a single MMS-EASE application.

### X.500 Directory Services

X.500 Directory Services can be employed to simplify the administering of OSI addresses and AR Names and provide for a centralized database containing addressing and other information that can be reached by all nodes on the network.

### Year 2000 Compliant

MMS-EASE V7.00 is year 2000 compliant.

### Includes Innovative MMS Object Explorer

AX-S4 MMS and its innovative MMS Object Explorer are now included with MMS-EASE. See the following page for more details.

# Explore, with AX-S4 MMS

SISCO continues to improve its products and now has released version 3.00 of AX-S4 MMS for the Windows 95 and NT environments. In our last edition of the HOST, we told you that with AX-S4 MMS any MS-Windows application supporting Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE) can take advantage of the powerful Manufacturing Message Specification (MMS) protocols for accessing real-time data in networked devices and applications.

Don't forget, the AX-S4 MMS server is compatible with many MS-Windows applications. It allows these Windows/DDE applications to communicate bidirectionally with devices and other applications over MMS based Ethernet networks.

We also told you about the MMS Object Browser, a new piece of the AX-S4 MMS package. Known now as the MMS Object Explorer, it has an intuitive tree-based user interface similar to that of the Windows Explorer.

The MMS Object Explorer is an AX-S4 MMS application that can be used to browse remote MMS devices and as a tool for verifying system setup issues such as network addressing and variable configuration.

The MMS Object Explorer allows you to create a list of devices that you want to access. For each device, you can retrieve and examine all of its MMS objects, such as Variables, Variable Lists, Domains and Program Invocations. You can also write Variables, download and upload Domains, and perform Program operations.

The MMS Object Explorer also provides a means for supporting clipboard programming. The Explorer can be invoked, the desired variable selected, and a link copied onto the clipboard and pasted into a DDE enabled application. The result of this operation is a "hot link" that has been created without any programming or even touching the keyboard!

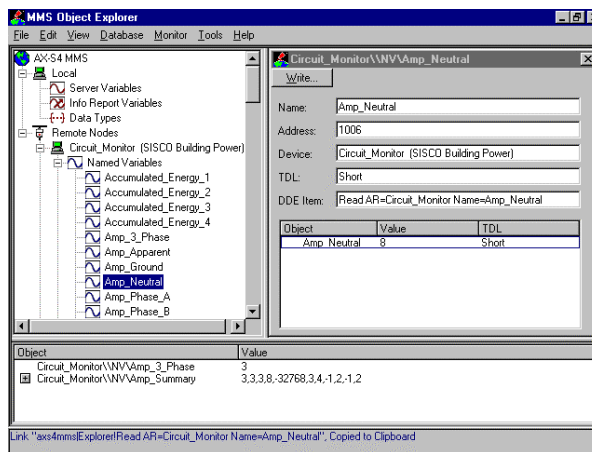
The Explorer is also a useful test tool. If you have written a program that reads or writes variables, the Explorer can test whether your code is working correctly by reading and writing your application. It supports many types of Variable Access (Named and Unnamed Variables, Named Variable Lists, and Types using Alternate Access). Domain and Program Invocation Services are also supported. AX-S4 MMS provides an extensive logging system to assist in testing and troubleshooting initial configuration and connectivity problems.

## Object Pane

Shows a tree diagram of Local and Remote Nodes and all of their MMS Objects. The objects displayed here are from the MMS Object Explorer database.

## Status Line

Displays current activity.



## Detail Pane

Shows the details of a selected MMS Object. Clicking on an object in the Object Pane will show the details of it here.

## Monitor Pane

Monitors the value(s) of the selected MMS Object. To monitor an object, drag it here from the Object Pane.

# UCA Starter Kit is a Ready-to-Run System

SISCO's UCA Starter Kit is a ready-to-run system that contains all the components needed to test, evaluate, and later deploy a working UCA system. The UCA Starter Kit is designed to be a tool to allow the interested user to learn about UCA in a hands-on manner using real hardware and software that can be deployed in the field as a pilot or trial system.

The UCA Starter Kit includes:

- A desktop computer running Windows NT with UCA compatible AX-S4 MMS software
- Load Tap Changer from Beckwith Electric
- RTU/Switch Controller from Valmet Automation
- Meter from Siemens/PSI

- Cables, documentation and 90-days of technical support
- On-site training program to get you started quickly



# Employee Edge

David Lovalvo, Technical Writer



David has been with SISCO for over 3 years, and after spending 2 years as Advertising Coordinator for a contract packaging corporation, he seems to have found his niche as a Technical Writer

for real-time communications. David takes great pride in the work that he does and seems to be motivated by a desire to continually improve at his position in the company.

Although technical writing is the description of David's job, not unlike his peers here at SISCO, he takes on multiple tasks.

Asked about what it is that he does here at SISCO, David explained, "Technical writing is what I do the most of. Because we continue to develop a wide range of software applications that can run over a number of different platforms, there is always something to document. Whether its creating new product manuals, editing or changing existing documentation, putting together training courseware, or creating on-line help, my goal is to provide the customer with user-friendly material. At times, I also work with the Marketing department where I have the opportunity to use a bit of creativity to produce the company newsletter as well as help with the

release of product literature."

"Developing and maintaining the web site has been another creative and exciting aspect of my job. Nowadays, with everything that's happening over the Internet, it was a great chance for me to learn the HTML language and use it to design a useful web site for SISCO and its customers."

Its apparent that David enjoys the challenge of his job to provide clarity and understanding of our products to the customer. When asked what he enjoyed most about his job, David responded honestly. "I can't say I enjoy one particular thing better than the rest, but I can say that a part of the job that I look forward to is working with the design engineers. When they have the time, working with the engineers provides me with an opportunity to learn. Tapping into their knowledge and expertise, I am able to develop sound documentation. It definitely adds credibility to my work."

Finally, David candidly spoke when asked what his thoughts were on the future of SISCO. "The longer I'm here, the easier it is to see how and why SISCO has a leg up on the competition. There is a certain commitment we make as a whole to provide the best product possible. I don't see things slowing down around here. In fact, each year business grows and our place in the market gets stronger. Keep an eye out for us."

## SISCO, Inc.

Systems Integration Specialists Company is a recognized leader of computer applications and real-time communications with end-users and OEM customers worldwide. SISCO is dedicated to 1) providing solutions that are based upon an understanding of our customer's needs and 2) providing solutions that are cost effective, open, interoperable, and maintainable.

## SISCO Headquarters

6605 19½ Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314-1408  
Tel: (810) 254-0020  
Fax: (810) 254-0053  
BBS: (810) 254-1578

## SISCO Alabama

501-1 8th Ave. NE  
Decatur, AL 35601  
Tel: (205) 351-0200  
Fax: (205) 351-6420

## E-mail:

Support: support@sisconet.com  
General Info: info@sisconet.com

## URL:

<http://www.sisconet.com>

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## Editor

David Lovalvo



Systems Integration Specialists Company, Inc.  
6605 19½ Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314 U.S.A.