

# SAP® Certified

Powered by SAP NetWeaver®



## NLINK® OPC TO SAP SOLUTION

The *NLINK® OPC® to SAP® Solution* is an integrated product created to address the pressing need for seamless real-time integration between OPC compatible field devices and SAP.



The *NLINK OPC to SAP Solution* allows manufacturers to perform back-office analysis and reporting by combining plant control and SAP business data or perform automatic measurement recording, reporting, analysis and notifications to facilitate Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM), Operating Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) or to enable compliance with the US FDA's 21 CFR Part 11 rule for electronic record keeping. End users can define measurement points based on upon control system tags, and create automatic notifications within SAP from sets of user-filtered process control alarms and events.



## Background

The *NLINK OPC to SAP Solution* solves the problem of how to exchange information between SAP and plant floor systems. Synchronization of these systems has been important for some time but previous approaches have had many drawbacks:

- They were not built upon open standards like OPC.
- They had to be implemented via custom coding.
- They were implemented as simplistic point-to-point interfaces.
- They were expensive to migrate when upgraded to support new releases of SAP R/3 and SAP ECC.
- They were not SAP certified.
- They were not reliable, scalable, flexible or manageable.

These many drawbacks meant that integration between plant floor devices and SAP was either not attempted at all or implemented and maintained at an unacceptably high cost.

Despite the lack of any available cost-effective solutions, recipes, bill-of-materials, production orders, schedules, procedures, and specifications still need to be passed from SAP to production management systems. Production conditions and events, materials actually used, product quality measurements, and maintenance information collected in operations still have to be passed to SAP in order to improve enterprise planning, operations documentation, and reconciliation. If this exchange of data is performed manually, and not automated, it is a slow, costly and error prone process.

Now more than ever, companies need to know in real-time exactly what is happening in production so that they can minimize the impact of exceptions and plan accordingly. The *NLINK OPC to SAP Solution* allows them to do this quickly, easily and more cost-effectively than was previously possible.



## OPC Solution Benefits

The *NLINK OPC to SAP Solution* provides significant advantages over alternative approaches:

- **Fast to Implement, Easy to Change.** The *NLINK OPC to SAP Solution* requires no custom coding to integrate plant level data with SAP. The solution is customized to meet the particular needs of each deployment and nothing needs to be installed into the SAP landscape.
- **Field Proven.** The NLINK technology has been awarded several patents and is a mature, field-proven integration product deployed throughout the world since 1998. It is a reliable, scalable, flexible and manageable enterprise class addition to any IT infrastructure.
- **No Risk.** Junot Systems does not just provide its patented integration technology, it also provides its customers direct access to its staff of SAP R/3 functional experts to help collect, refine and validate project requirements. When necessary, these functional experts make use of Junot's in-house SAP R/3 and SAP ECC systems to provide whatever consulting support that may be needed.
- **Future Proof.** Junot Systems guarantees to keep the installed NLINK OPC to SAP Solution technology compatible with any new SAP R/3 and mySAP releases or upgrades and any changes to the OPC specifications.
- **SAP Certified.** NLINK is SAP Certified for Advanced Data Collection (CA-ADC), Application Link Enabling Interface (CA-ALE) and has been awarded both the Certified for SAP NetWeaver® and Powered by SAP NetWeaver designations.
- **Reliable.** The *NLINK OPC to SAP Solution* provides built-in critical transactional support not seen in other approaches, including:
  - **Store and Forward.** When the SAP system becomes unavailable, the *NLINK OPC to SAP Solution* stores messages locally and then automatically submits them once, and only once, in the correct order to the SAP system when connectivity is re-established.
  - **Automatic Failover.** If the *NLINK OPC to SAP Solution* computer becomes unavailable, or has failed due to hardware or operating system software problems, an optional backup system can be configured to handle its workload until the failed system is brought back online.



- **Scalable.** The *NLINK OPC to SAP Solution* provides unparalleled performance and scalability through a number of features, including:
  - **Replication.** Use replication to reduce unnecessary round-trip requests to the back end SAP system, improving overall system response time, reducing network traffic and system load.
  - **Validation.** All OPC transactions support centralized validation prior to posting to the SAP system. Many potential errors can be caught prior to posting, reducing the load on the back end ERP.
  - **Multi-Threading.** The *NLINK OPC Solution* is fully multi-threaded. It is able to efficiently handle many requests from many plant level devices simultaneous and process them concurrently.
  - **Memory Resident.** *NLINK's* patented technology uses an extremely powerful and flexible memory-resident database to allow efficient and timely data processing.
- **Flexible.** The *NLINK OPC to SAP Solution* offers complete flexibility straight out of the box:
  - **Expandable.** Unlike other approaches, the *NLINK OPC to SAP Solution* is a full Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) product. It can be expanded to include connections to legacy systems, best of breed applications, the Internet, and more.
  - **Business Rules.** The *NLINK OPC to SAP Solution* provides more than just message delivery. It allows the user to build business logic into any transaction. Business logic is easily configured and changed for evolving business requirements, without programming.
  - **Data Combination.** The *NLINK OPC to SAP Solution* lets you easily combine and manipulate data from multiple sources and supports long running transactions.
  - **Scheduler.** In addition to processing transactions in an event-driven manner, transactions can also be batched or scheduled to be posted to SAP periodically.

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