

EIBA Handbook Series

Release 3.0

Introduction

27.04.1999

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1. Introduction

EIBA sc., the EUROPEAN INSTALLATION BUS ASSOCIATION sc. is a co-operative society under Belgian law, which was founded on May 8th 1990 with a registered office in Brussels, Belgium. EIBA sc. is open to all manufacturers willing to foster its statutory objectives and consists by now of more than 110 companies internationally. In accordance with its Statutes, EIBA aims all its activities at:

1. Promoting EIB building systems engineering at national and international level.
2. Establishing the EIBA trademark **EIB** as a quality label.

To this end EIBA sc. undertakes in particular:

- to stipulate technical specifications and standards for the EIB system and products and to devise quality regulations and testing instructions, together referred to below as the "EIB Requirements";
- to create the necessary technical working groups
- to engage testing institutions to perform the necessary conformity tests and where test results are positive to grant an **EIB** Trademark license;
- to actively participate, through its Members, in standardization work;
- to adapt where necessary the EIB system to applicable standards;
- to maintain contacts with suitable bodies and projects on national and international level;
- to inform Members and licensees of changes in the technical and quality guidelines and in the standards;
- to ensure through its Members and licensees the market success of the EIB System and its technology;
- to contribute through active publicity work to the spreading of the EIB system.

In compliance with these objectives, EIBA s.c.r.l. has herewith published Release 3 of these Handbook Series. This much more comprehensive release will further strengthen the EIBA support to developers of EIB solutions to develop and manufacture products in conformity with these EIBA requirements and have their conformity certified. Once they are approved by EIBA, such products are then registered as EIB products.

The administrative rules and procedures of the EIB certification system to be followed, can be found in the EIBA set of authoritative rules, published in the EIBA Trademark and Certification Documentation.

EIBA WG3 "Technology" is the body within EIBA that, with the help of its different Expert Groups (EG), was responsible for drafting and approval of this document. WG3 will ensure continuous maintenance and updating of these EIBA Handbook Series.

2. EIBA and Convergence - Handbook Aspects

Such a Handbook update will practically emanate from the current Convergence Process.

EIBA has embarked on this process together with two other European Associations, these are Batibus International and EHSA.

The main goal is to reach a common standard for Home and Building Electronic Systems (HBES). This opens and develops the market for Home Automation in the future and is fully in line with the interest of the EIBA companies. Furthermore, as EIBA and its members have been the driving force in Europe for HBES and as they want to keep the technology lead also in the future, there is the must for all EIBA members to continue the support of the resulting technology.

The EIB System will be extended by this process as shown in the "System Model 2000+" (see Fig. 1). This Model is also the guidance for these EIBA Handbook Series.

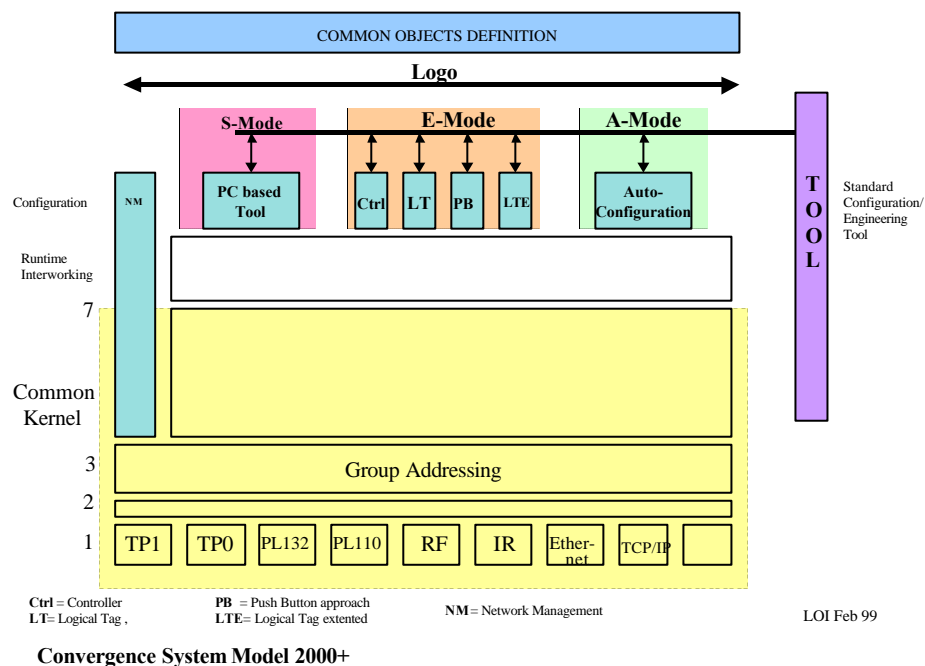


Fig. 1: System Model 2000+

EIBA has offered these EIBA Handbook Series – Release 3.0 as input to Convergence in order to ensure backward compatibility to today's EIB products. Convergence is therefore taking over the common kernel and the run-time interworking. Furthermore, the interface to the standard configuration tool - the ETS - is part of the model; this ensures interworking, also in the case of linking products of the different configuration modes.

As it is common practice with the EIB-logo, the products compatible with the above system model shall bear the common Convergence-logo after passing the appropriate certification process.

The forthcoming common standard will merge the EIBA Handbook Series and the Convergence specifications. This however requires a transition process:

The EIBA Handbook Series – Release 3.0 will replace the EIBA Handbook for Development – Version 2.21 in a normal EIB internal procedure. It will then act as the stable basis for EIB Certification, updated by the EIBA Application Note process as today. In parallel, the Convergence specifications are being written using the EIBA Handbook Series – Release 3.0 as input. The structures of Convergence specifications and EIBA Handbook Series – Release 3.0 are already harmonized down to the "parts-level".

After completion and approval of the Convergence specifications, chapters and/or parts could be taken over into the EIBA Handbook Series (could be called Handbook Series – Release 4.0) where appropriate, if they cover the today's contents of the corresponding EIBA Handbook Series – Release 3.0 chapter and provide compatibility and continuity to products developed under EIBA Handbook Series – Release 3.0. The EIBA Handbook Series – Release 3.0 will stay a de-facto part in the new Convergence specifications.

After the planned new common Association, (could replace EIBA one day), has started operating, the certification services for the Convergence-logo based on the resulting Convergence standard will be offered. However, there will still be a transition time of 5 years for EIB products under development today; the applicant may choose either certification according to the Convergence standard or still to EIBA Handbook Series – Release 3.0.

This new EIBA Handbook Series – Release 3.0 is a further big step in EIB Technology as introducing new and extended system implementations, new media (PL110, RF, Ethernet) as well as extending Interworking to OBIS (Object Interworking Standards.) while keeping the tool compatibility to ETS.

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