



**University of Stuttgart**  
Institute of Industrial Automation  
and Software Engineering



# Refining Automation System for Enhanced Modular Control

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Conceptional Project (co-pm)



# **Motivation and Background**

# Motivation and Background

Refining automation system



Why?

- Flexible production system
- Easier reconfiguration

Modular Data and Control Interface

Why?

IT

Information Technology



Goal: Modular Data and Control Interface to connect IT and OT

OT

Operational Technology

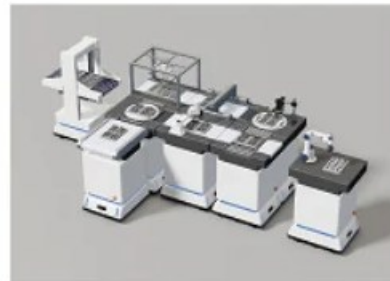
# Motivation and Background

- Refine automation system into modular data and control interface.
- “**Modular**” : smaller parts of a whole that can be arrange differently.
- “**Automation**” : activity that is done with minimal human command.
- “**Modular Automation**” : production line that can be separated into mobile modules and can be quickly reconfigured for different purpose

From Layout A to Layout B



IAS CP-Factory



Layout A

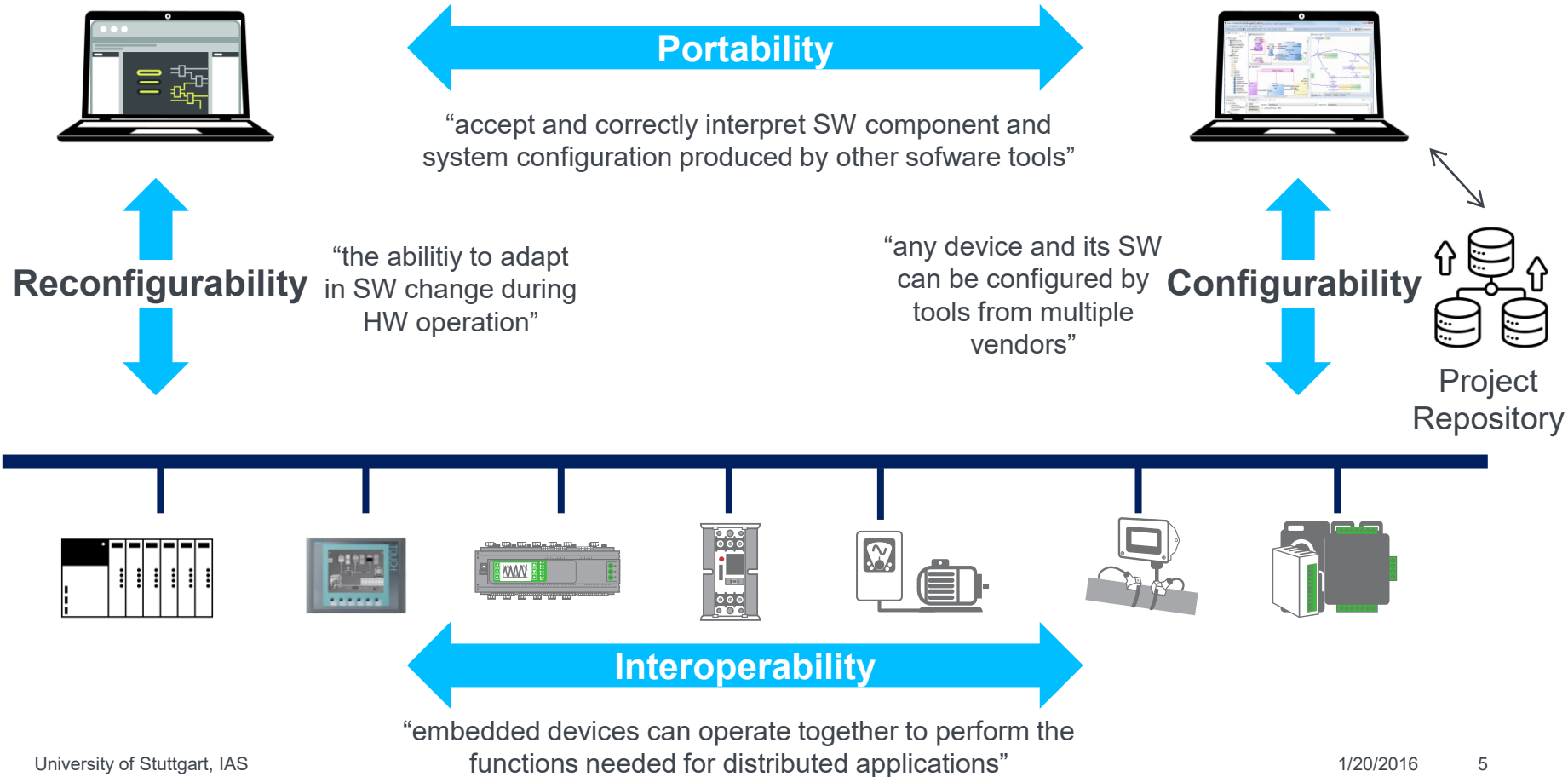


Layout B

Source : Oriental motor [1]

# The benefits of modular automation

“Characterized by Portability, Configurability, Interoperability”



# Goal and Requirements

Goal: Modular Data and Control Interface to connect IT and OT

1. Modular **data query** interface
  2. Modular **control** interface
- In the context **IAS CP-Factory**, it is so difficult to have modular control interface.
  - **R1** : PLC code IEC 61131 is not modular.
    - It cannot be easily ported on another PLC vendor IDE
    - It cannot be reconfigurable by another PLC vendor IDE
    - Interoperability is not possible through different device.
  - **R2** : Production control has constraint to production process.
    - inherent dependency

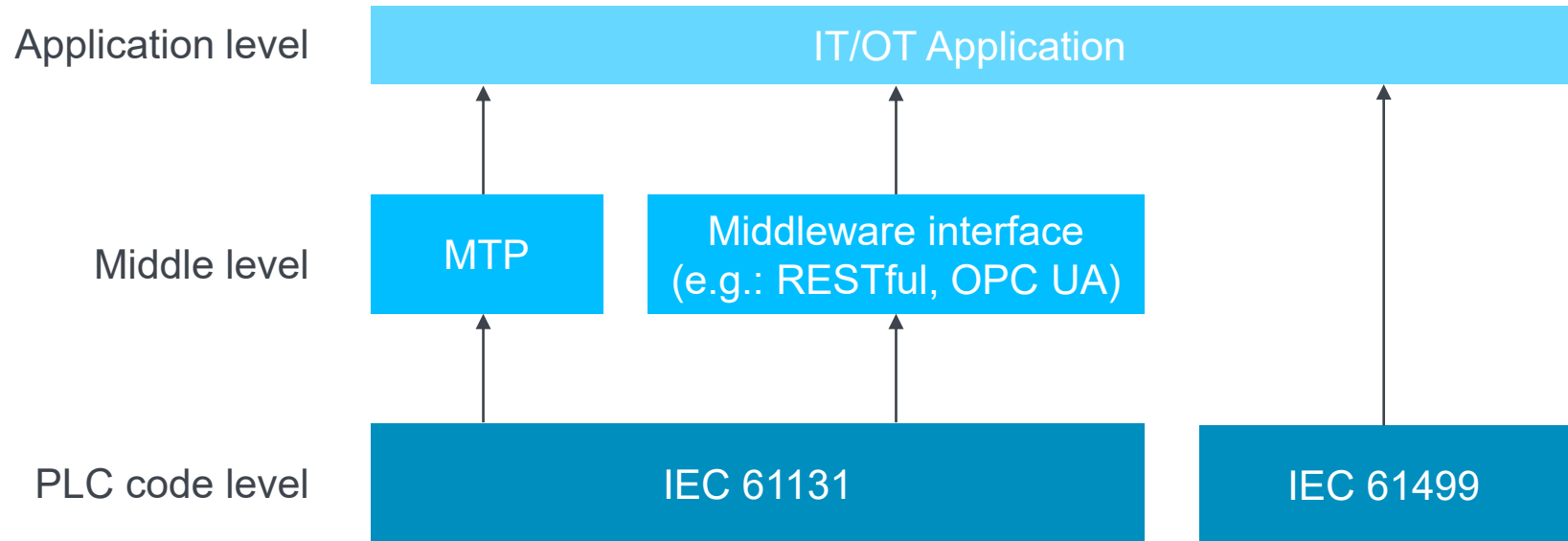
*“We want to explore whether we can **migrate and translate** the IEC 61131 standard for modular data and control interface with high code utilization”*

# State of the Art

## The 3 modular control interface approach

- Interface based on IEC 61131
- Module Type Package
- IEC 61499 Migration

# State of the Art

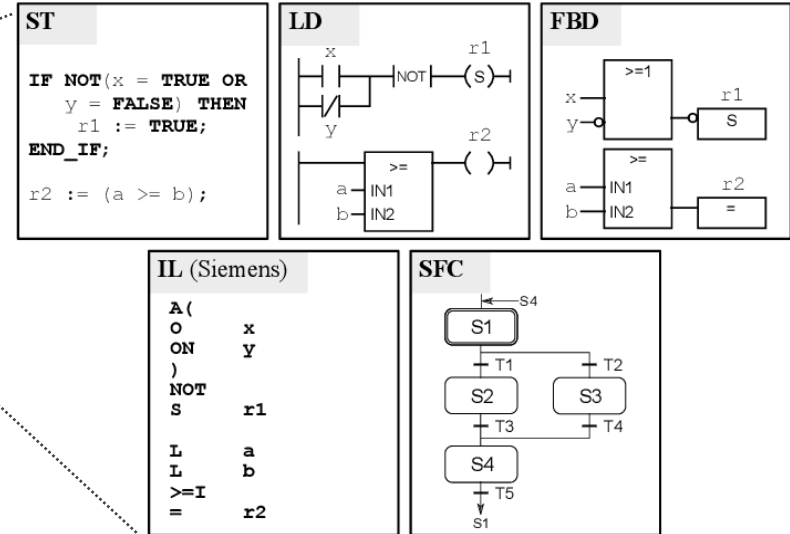
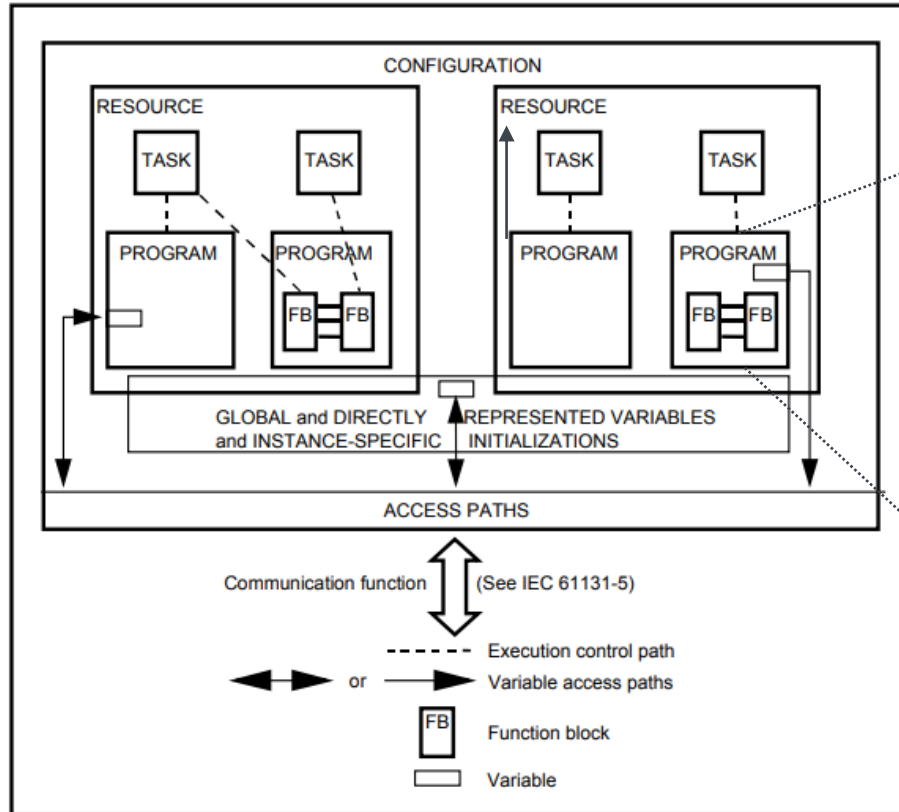
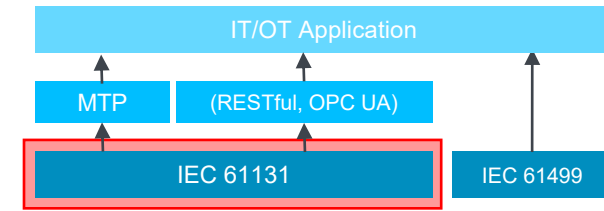


- 1. modular interface
- 2. code utilization



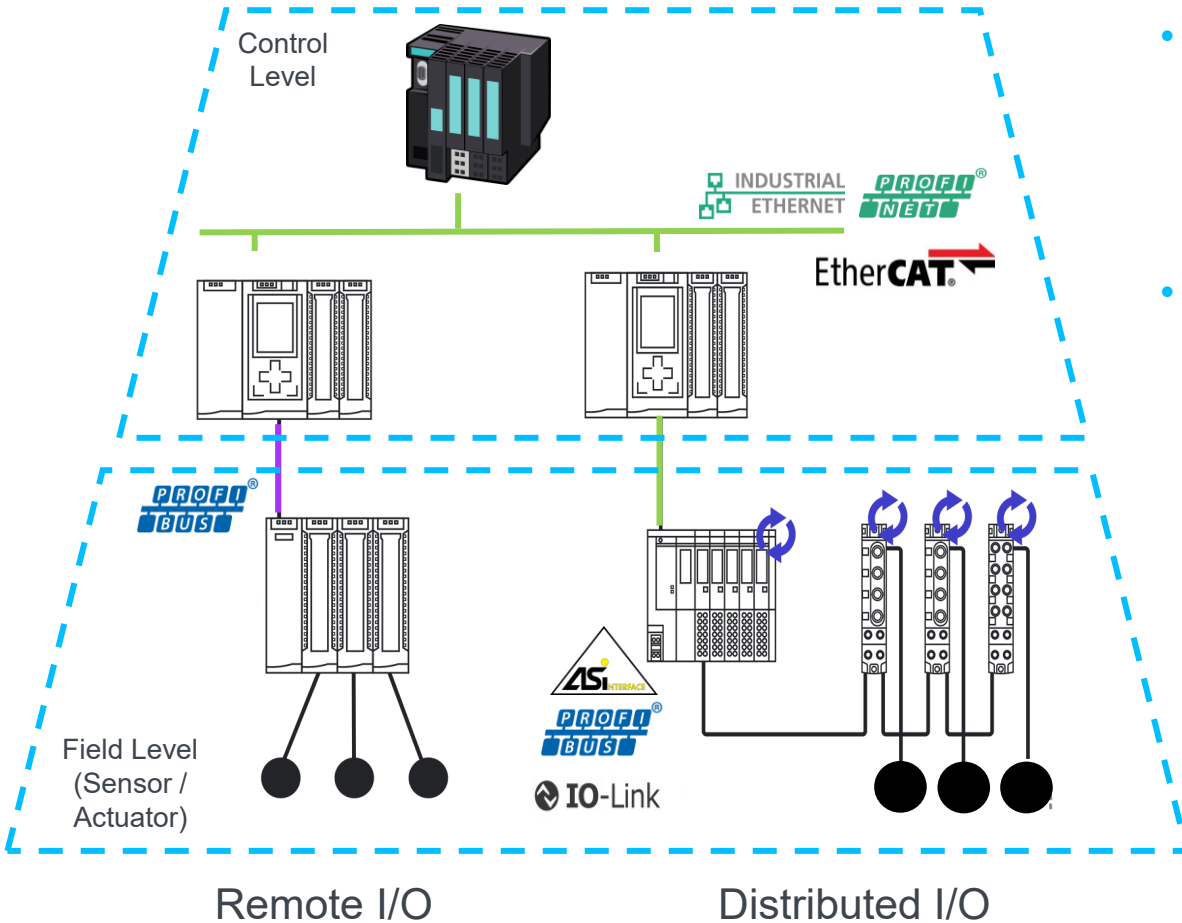
# Interface based on IEC 61131

## Overview of IEC 61131



# Interface based on IEC 61131 Communication Paradigm

“Precise cyclic scan based architecture” [4]



- **Advantages :**

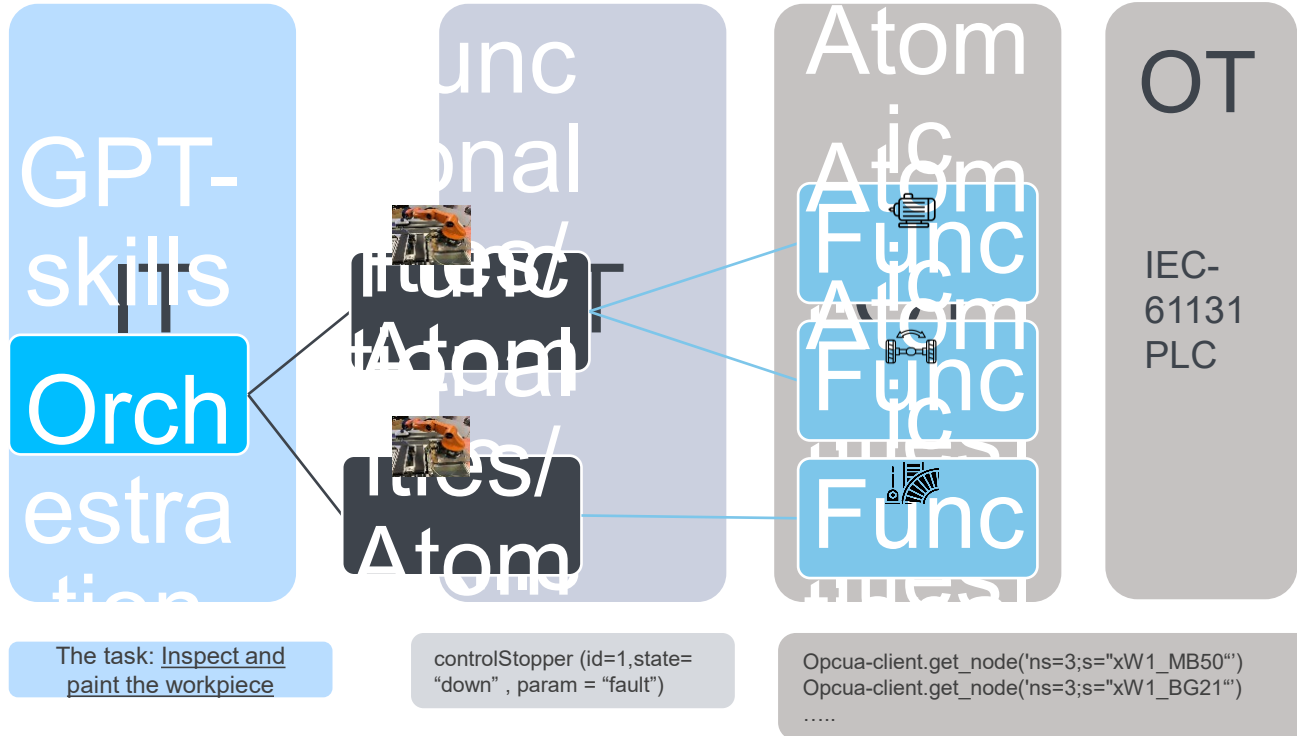
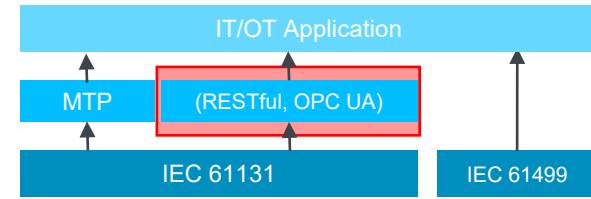
- Robust : ensure synchrony of data
- Deterministic behaviour

- **Disadvantages :**

- Ownership issues : a DO or AO must be owned by one PLC only.
- Extra communication between PLC is needed to pass program and I/O data
- Reduce performance and reliability because copying data between PLCs. (Reaction time increase)

# Previous Work at IAS

Connect IT and OT via RESTful Interface  
(MT-3498Shenoy)

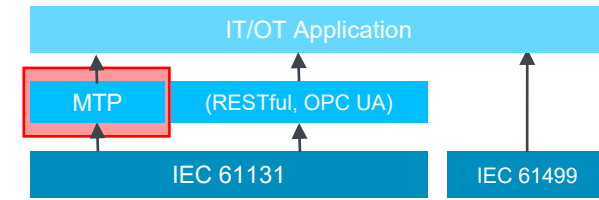


{REST:API}

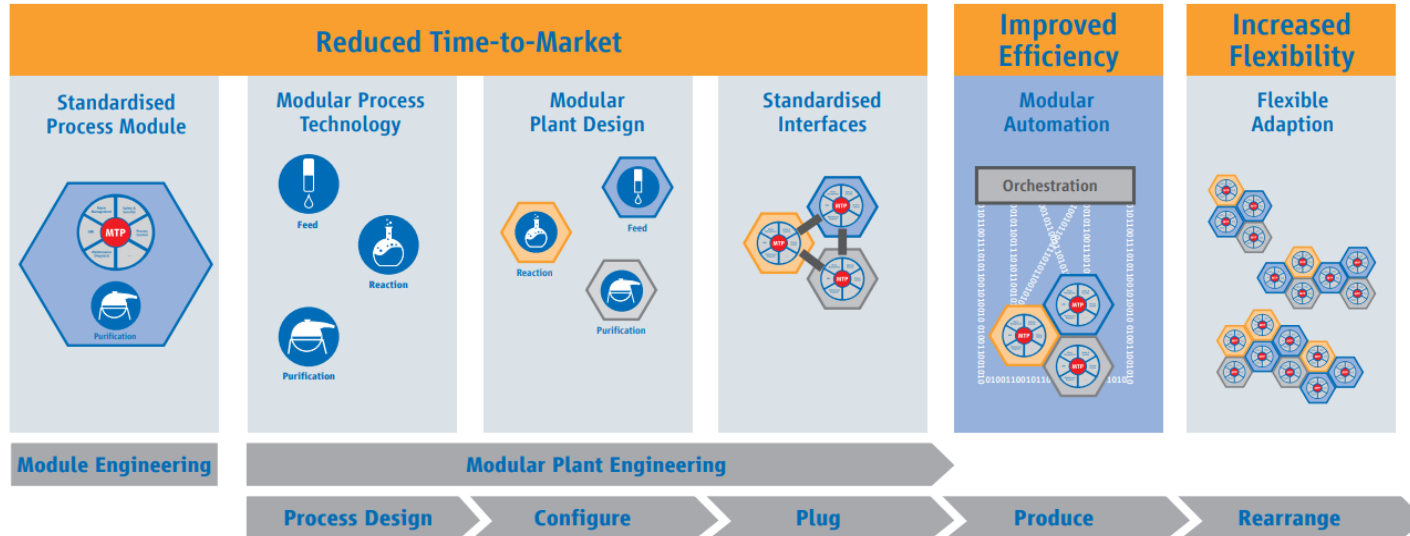


# Module Type Package (MTP)

Modularize for process industry

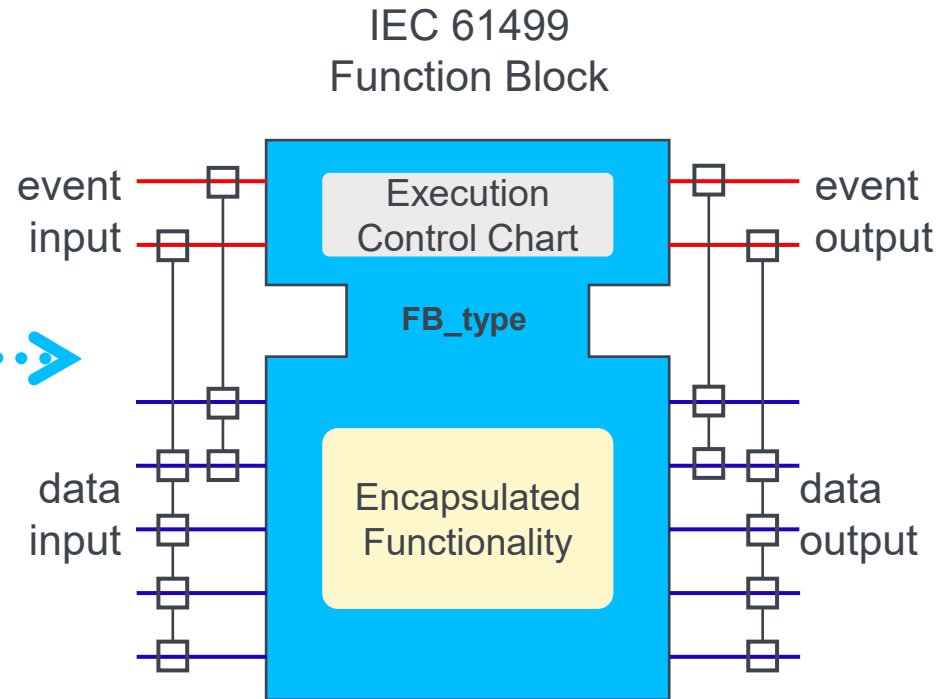
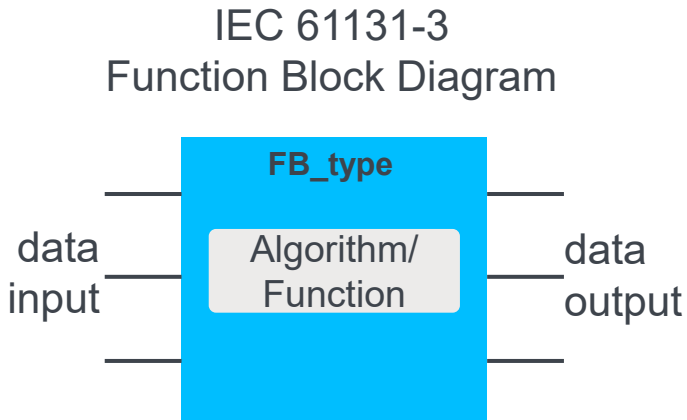
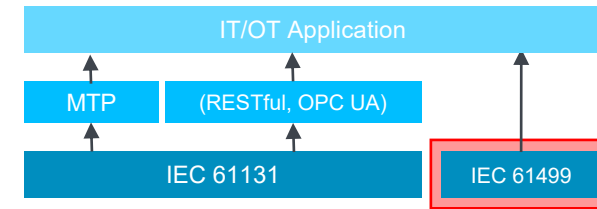


- Main Idea : Modularize each process automation as **Process Equipment Assembly (PEA)** according to VDI/VDE/NAMUR Standard 2658. Several PEAs with controllers are integrated to **Process Orchestration Layer (POL)**.
- Concept and Benefit:



# Overview of IEC 61499

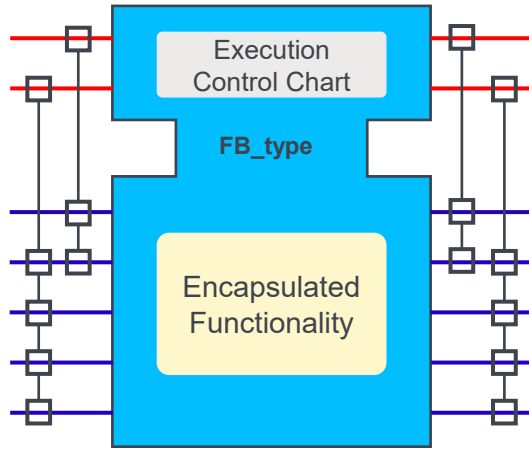
- IEC 61499 is **not programming language**.
- IEC 61499 is System-level design language for distributed control systems.



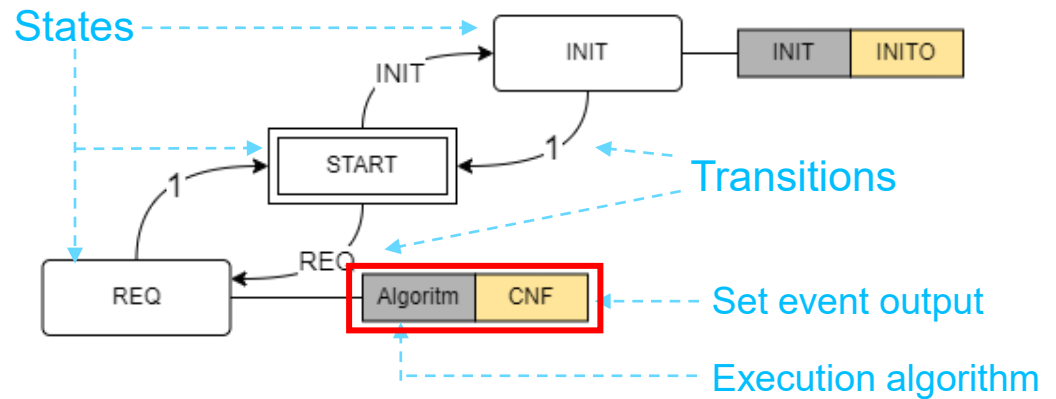
# Overview of IEC 61499

System level design language to model the distributed control systems

## 1. Basic Function Block (BFB)



## Execution Control Chart (ECC)

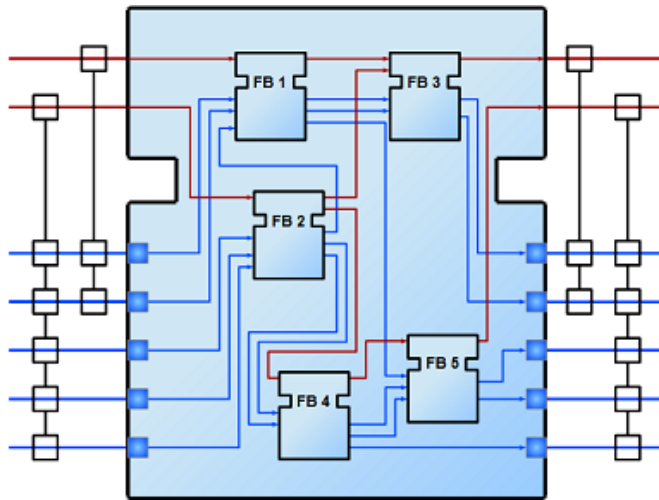


- The behavioral of BFB is defined as **event-driven state machine**, called **ECC**.
- When transition is fired, **active state** changes. (Only 1 active state at any one time)
- When a **new state** is entered, the corresponding **Actions** are executed
- The algorithm can be written in any programming language.  
If BFB defines strong encapsulation algorithm : **key characteristic of SW Component**

# Overview of IEC 61499

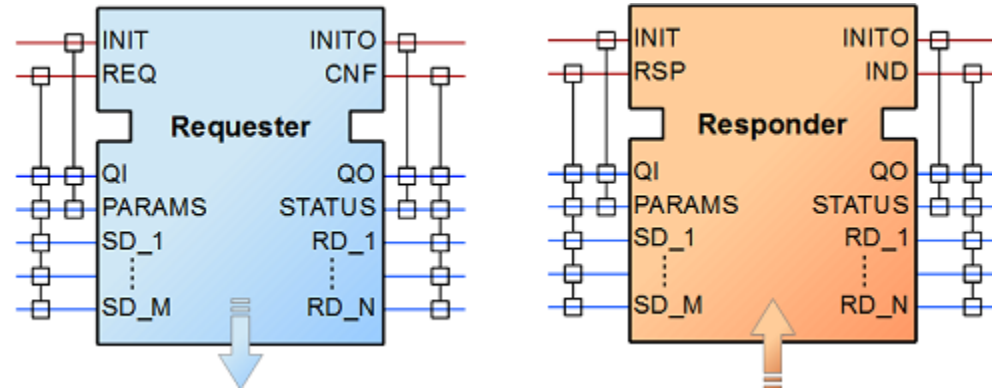
System level design language to model the distributed control systems

## 2. Composite Function Block (CFB)



Orchestration of modular functions with good interface

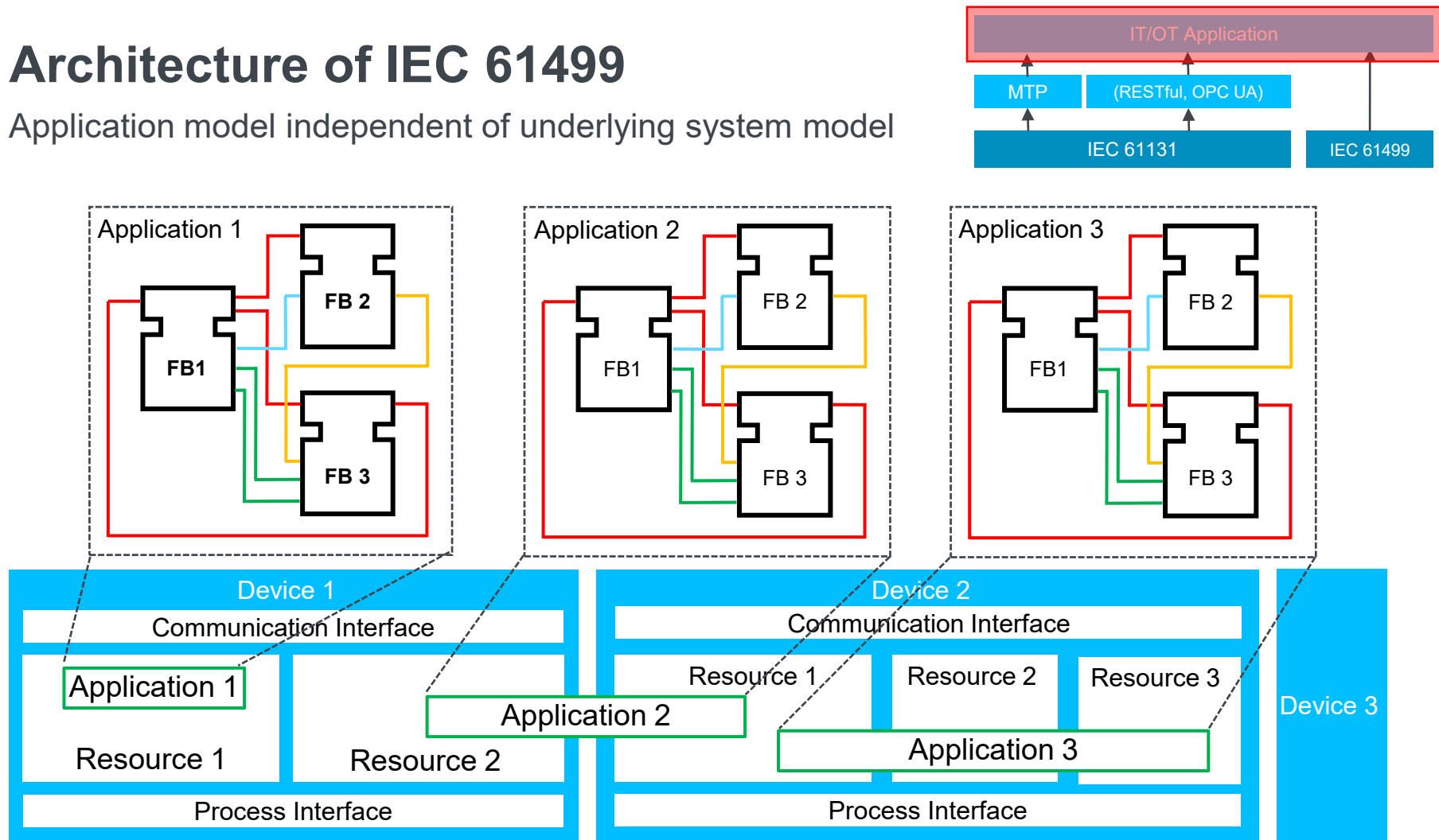
## 3. Service Interface Function Block (SIFB)



Interface for external interaction

# Architecture of IEC 61499

Application model independent of underlying system model





# Conclusion on IEC 61499

## Seamless OT-IT Integration

### OT- World

- **Automation Engineer**
  - Graphical function block
  - Precise control of execution order and data flow

- **Periodic scan based**

- Event-driven software component.  
Software component can be used by other person to build complete application by plugging together software component.
- Independent of underlying hardware device.
- It can be distributed across different hardware devices.

### IT- World

- **Software Engineer**
  - Object
  - Methods
  - Software component

- **Transaction based / Event based**

# Conception

Migration to IEC 61499 for CP factory

# Conception

## Migration from IEC 61131 to IEC 61499 Standard

Run IEC 61131



IAS CP-Factory

Translation

Run IEC 61499



IAS CP-Factory

Goal: Modular Data and Control Interface to connect IT and OT

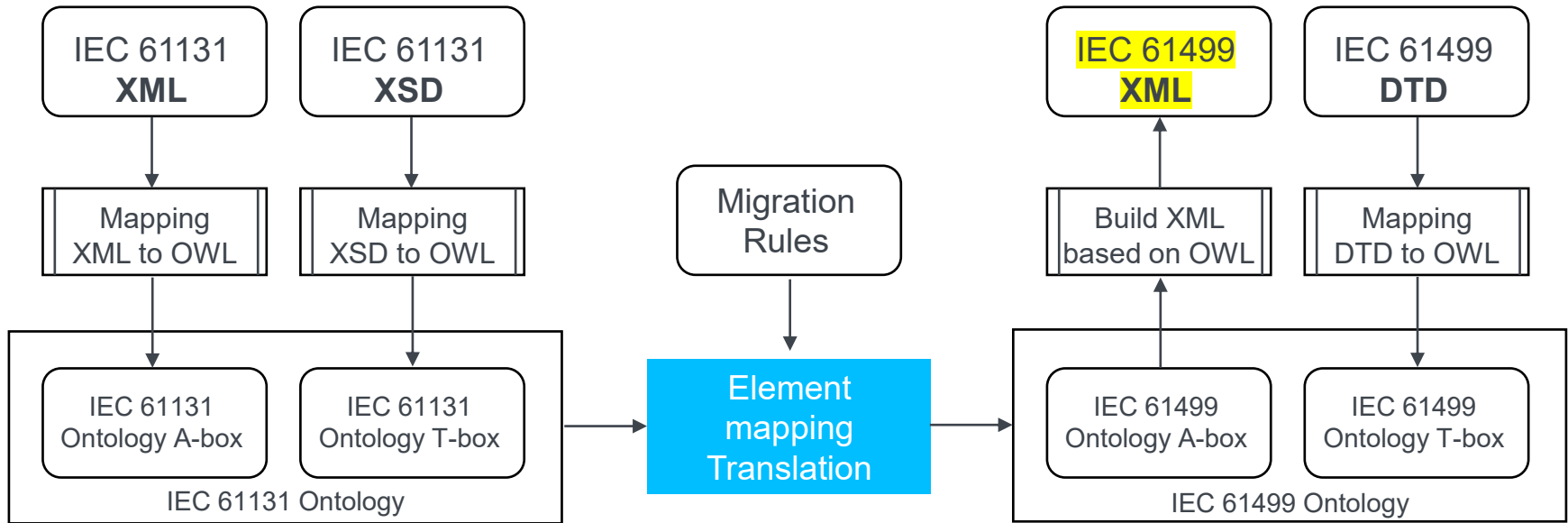
- Easier interaction and integration with external system
- Modular interface

# Migration Strategy from IEC 61131 to IEC 61499

- Three Approach for migration to IEC 61499 :
  - Model-Driven Approach [4] [5] [6]
  - Object/Class-Oriented Approach [7]
  - Ontology-Based Approach [8] [9]
- All approach start with same procedure :
  - Identification structure of XML file IEC 61131 and IEC 61499
  - Investigate the possibility mapping between two XML

# Migration to IEC 61499 Strategy

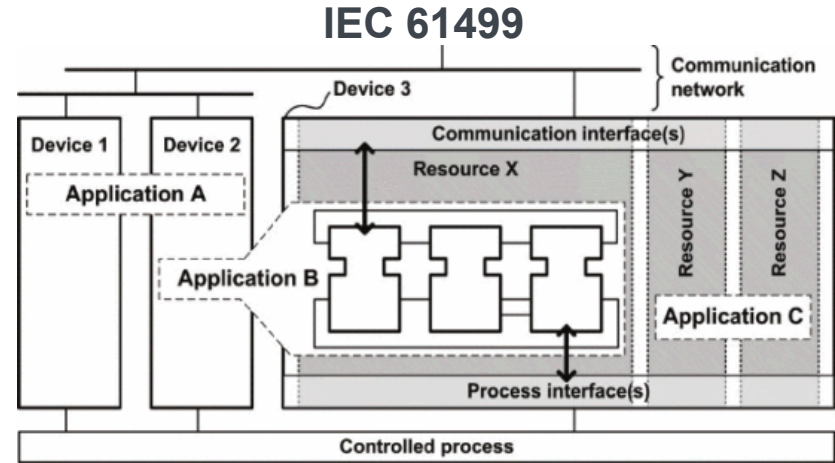
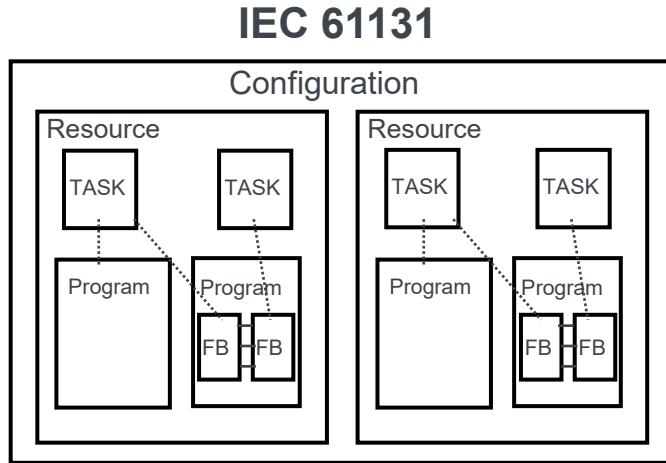
## Concept of Ontology Mapping



- T-Box (Taxonomy Box) : The knowledge base of all properties standard and its relationships between concepts.
- A-Box (Assertion Box) : The instances (system configuration, function block, code) are modelled. It consists of knowledge which is specific to the individual system design.

# Migration to IEC 61499

## Migration Rules



- Rules :

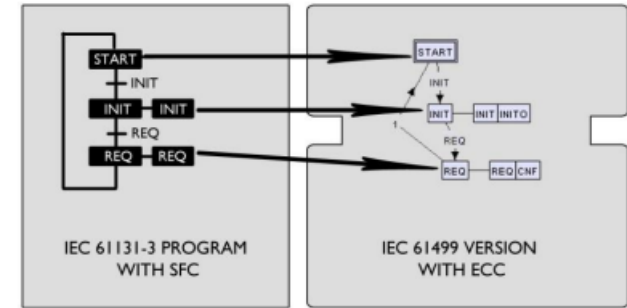
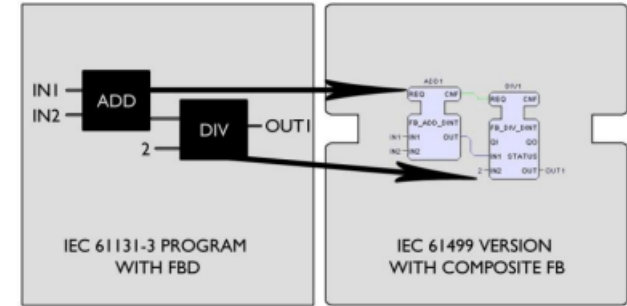
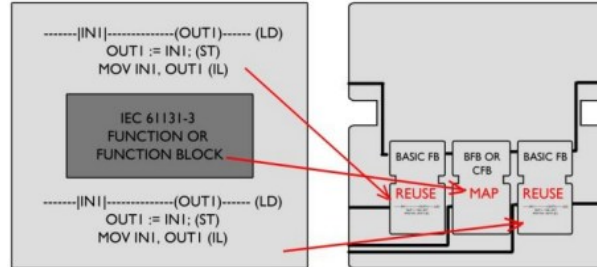
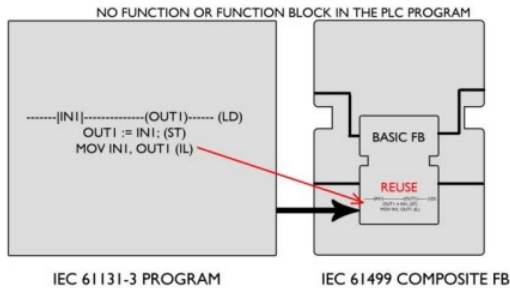
- IEC 61131 **Resource** ➡ IEC 61499 **Device**
- IEC 61131 **Task** ➡ IEC 61499 **Resource**
- IEC 61131 **Program** ➡ IEC 61499 **Application**

Cited from [10]

# Migration to IEC 61499

## Migration Rules

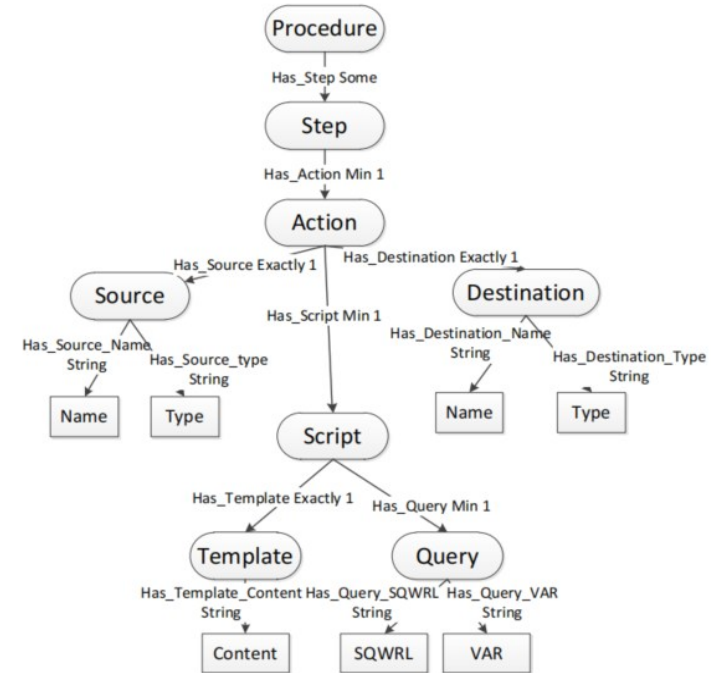
- IEC 61131 Program in FBD ➡ IEC 61499 CFB
- IEC 61131 Program in SFC ➡ IEC 61499 ECC
- IEC 61131 Program ➡ IEC 61499 BFB if no FC / FBD calls in original function block
- IEC 61131 Program ➡ IEC 61499 CFB if one / more FC / FBD calls in original function block



Cited from [10]

# Ontology Mapping

- 1: **for all Step do**
- 2: **for all Action do**
- 3: **for all Script do**
- 3: *Execute SQWRL Query from the original IEC 61131-3 KB and Select variable Results from VAR*
- 4: **for all Results of VAR do**
- 5: *Replace Variable in the Template with SQWRL Query Results*
- 6: *Create an Instance in the target IEC 61499 KB with Template Content*
- 7: **end for**
- 7: **end for**
- 8: **end for**
- 9: **end for**



Cited from [10]



# Implementation

Migration to IEC 61499

# Creation of target IEC 61499 XML File

## Document Type Definition (DTD) of IEC 61499

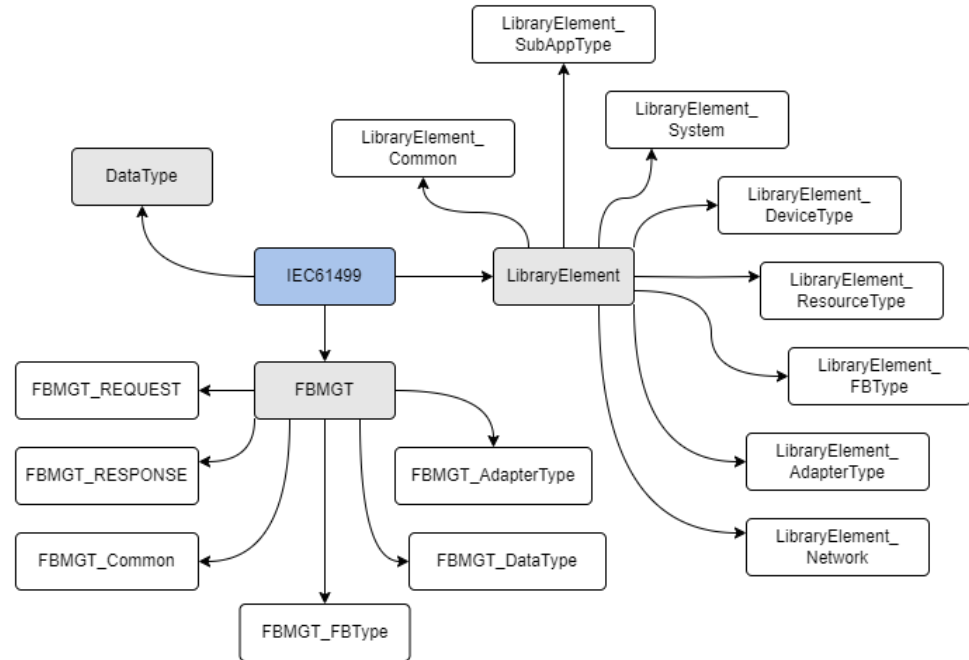
- DTD defines the structure and the legal elements and attributes of an XML.
- XML document validated against DTD : "Well formed" and "Valid".

- IEC 61499 has 3 DTD file :

1. Data Type allowed in IEC 61499

2. FBMGT – Function Block Management Commands, defines protocol used for communication.

3. Library Elements



# Mapping the target DTD file into Ontology Knowledge Base

- Each DTD document : as a domain in the ontology
- Each DTD element : mapped to an OWL class
- The hierarchies of the DTD elements : mapped to object properties
- The attributes of an element : mapped to data properties
- Translate the occurrence of an element symbol :

<b>DTD Document</b>	<b>OWL Code</b>
(*) declaring 0 or more occurrence of an Element	Owl:minQualifiedCardinality = 0;
(+) declaring minimum 1 occurrence of Element	Owl:minQualifiedCardinality = 1;
(?) declaring 0 or 1 occurrence of an element	Owl:maxQualifiedCardinality = 1;

# Mapping DTD file for metamodel definition into OWL Ontology Knowledge

- Snapshot IEC 61499 DTD code

```
<!-- FBType elements -->
<!ELEMENT FBType (VersionInfo,InterfaceList,ByteData?) >
<!ATTLIST FBType
  Name CDATA #REQUIRED >

<!ELEMENT InterfaceList (EventInputs?,EventOutputs?,InputVars?,OutputVars?,
Sockets?, Plugs?)>

<!ELEMENT EventInputs (Event+)>
<!ELEMENT EventOutputs (Event+)>
<!ELEMENT InputVars (VarDeclaration+)>
<!ELEMENT OutputVars (VarDeclaration+)>
<!ELEMENT Sockets (AdapterDeclaration+)>
<!ELEMENT Plugs (AdapterDeclaration+)>

<!ELEMENT Event EMPTY>
<!ATTLIST Event
  Name ID #REQUIRED
  Type CDATA #IMPLIED
  With CDATA #IMPLIED >

<!ELEMENT AdapterDeclaration EMPTY>
<!ATTLIST AdapterDeclaration
  Name ID #REQUIRED
  Type CDATA #REQUIRED >
```

Example creating OWL format :  
FBType must has a name of data type  
String.

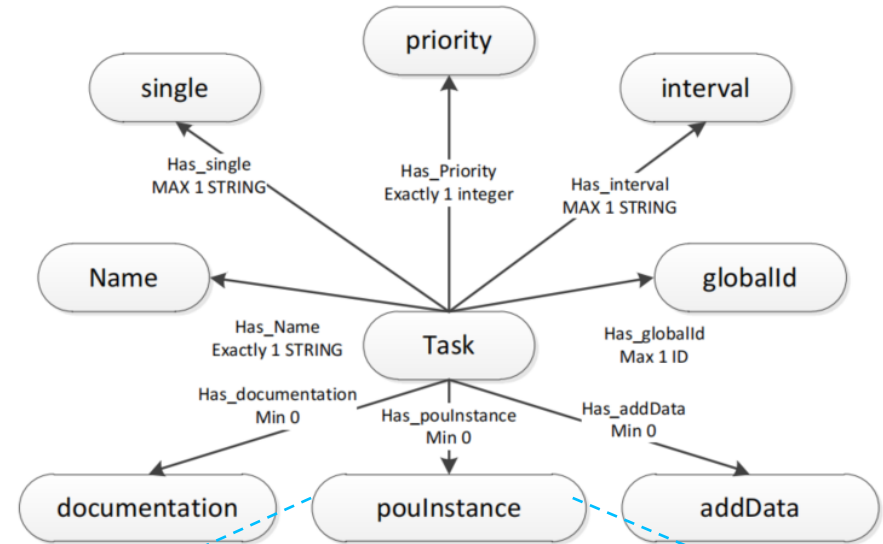
```
<rdfs:subClassOf>
  <owl:Restriction>
    <owl:onProperty rdf:resource="#Has_FBType_Name"/>
    <owl:qualifiedCardinality
      rdf:datatype="&xsd;nonNegativeInteger">1
    </owl:qualifiedCardinality>
    <owl:onDataRange rdf:resource="#String"/>
  </owl:Restriction>
</rdfs:subClassOf>
```

Note :  
Repeat for each element in 1 DTD file.

# Mapping XSD file for metamodel definition into OWL Ontology Knowledge

Example creating OWL Knowledge Base of IEC 61131 "Task"

```
<xsd:element name="task" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded">
  <xsd:complexType>
    <xsd:annotation>
      <xsd:documentation>
        Represent a periodic or triggered task</xsd:documentation>
      </xsd:annotation>
    <xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:element name="pouInstance" type="ppx:pouInstance"
        minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <xsd:element name="addData" type="ppx:addData" minOccurs="0"/>
      <xsd:element name="documentation" type="ppx:formattedText"
        minOccurs="0">
        <xsd:annotation>
          <xsd:documentation>
            userspecific element</xsd:documentation>
          </xsd:annotation>
        </xsd:element>
      </xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:attribute name="name" type="xsd:string" use="required"/>
      <xsd:attribute name="single" type="xsd:string" use="optional"/>
      <xsd:attribute name="interval" type="xsd:string" use="optional">
        <xsd:annotation>
          <xsd:documentation>constant duration or variable
            name</xsd:documentation>
          </xsd:annotation>
        </xsd:attribute>
      <xsd:attribute name="priority" use="required">
        <xsd:simpleType>
          <xsd:restriction base="xsd:integer">
            <xsd:minInclusive value="0"/>
            <xsd:maxInclusive value="65535"/>
          </xsd:restriction>
        </xsd:simpleType>
      </xsd:attribute>
      <xsd:attribute name="globalId" type="xsd:ID" use="optional"/>
    </xsd:complexType>
  </xsd:element>
```

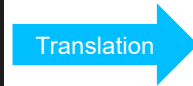


```
<rdfs:subClassOf>
  <owl:Class>
    <owl:Restriction>
      <owl:onProperty rdf:resource="#Has_pouInstance"/>
      <owl:onClass rdf:resource="#Task"/>
      <owl:minQualifiedCardinality
        rdf:datatype="xsd:nonNegativeInteger">0
      </owl:minQualifiedCardinality>
    </owl:Restriction>
  </owl:Class>
</rdfs:subClassOf>
```

# IEC 61131 file → into IEC 61499

## Proof-of-Concept

```
<ObjectList>
  <MultilingualText ID="13" CompositionName="Comment">
    <ObjectList>
      <MultilingualTextItem ID="14" CompositionName="Items">
        <AttributeList>
          <Culture>en-GB</Culture>
          <Text />
        </AttributeList>
      </MultilingualTextItem>
      <MultilingualTextItem ID="15" CompositionName="Items">
        <AttributeList>
          <Culture>de-DE</Culture>
          <Text>Transportband 3+4 mit DC-Motor</Text>
        </AttributeList>
      </MultilingualTextItem>
    </ObjectList>
  </MultilingualText>
  <MultilingualText ID="16" CompositionName="Title">
    <ObjectList>
      <MultilingualTextItem ID="17" CompositionName="Items">
        <AttributeList>
          <Culture>en-GB</Culture>
          <Text />
        </AttributeList>
      </MultilingualTextItem>
      <MultilingualTextItem ID="18" CompositionName="Items">
        <AttributeList>
          <Culture>de-DE</Culture>
          <Text>Motor</Text>
        </AttributeList>
      </MultilingualTextItem>
    </ObjectList>
  </MultilingualText>
</ObjectList>
```



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE FBType SYSTEM "LibraryElement.dtd">
<FBType Name="ConveyorControl" Comment="Controls a single conveyor belt">
  <InterfaceList>
    <EventInputs>
      <Event Name="START"/>
      <Event Name="STOP"/>
      <Event Name="SENSOR_TRIGGER"/>
    </EventInputs>
    <EventOutputs>
      <Event Name="CONVEYOR_RUNNING"/>
      <Event Name="CONVEYOR_STOPPED"/>
      <Event Name="RFID_READ"/>
    </EventOutputs>
    <InputVars>
      <VarDeclaration Name="Enable" Type="BOOL" Comment="Enable signal for the conveyor belt"/>
      <VarDeclaration Name="SensorID" Type="INT" Comment="Identifies which sensor was triggered"/>
    </InputVars>
    <OutputVars>
      <VarDeclaration Name="PackageID" Type="STRING" Comment="ID of the package read by RFID sensor"/>
    </OutputVars>
  </InterfaceList>
  <BasicFB>
    <ECC>
      <ECState Name="IDLE">
        <ECAction Output="CONVEYOR_STOPPED"/>
      </ECState>
      <ECState Name="RUNNING">
        <ECAction Output="CONVEYOR_RUNNING"/>
      </ECState>
      <ECTransition Source="IDLE" Destination="RUNNING" Condition="START"/>
      <ECTransition Source="RUNNING" Destination="IDLE" Condition="STOP"/>
    </ECC>
    <Algorithm Name="RFID_READ_ALG" Comment="Algorithm to read RFID tag">
      <ST><![CDATA[// RFID reading logic]]></ST>
    </Algorithm>
  </BasicFB>
</FBType>
```

# **Result and Discussion**

## **Result and Discussion**

- The migration from IEC 61131 PLC code to IEC 61499 is achieved using ontology mapping.
- IEC 61499 is the system model of distributed automation, it need a Run Time Environment to be pre-installed and run before deployment of IEC 61499 code.

## **Future Reasearch**

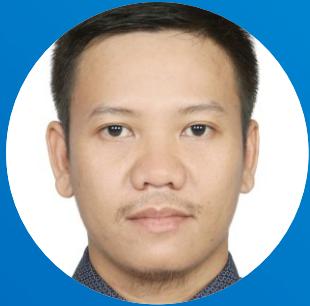
- Deployment of IEC 61499 code.
- Comprehensive testing
- IT/OT application based on IEC 61499 Code for better code utilization and modularity





**University of Stuttgart**  
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**Thank you!**



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# References

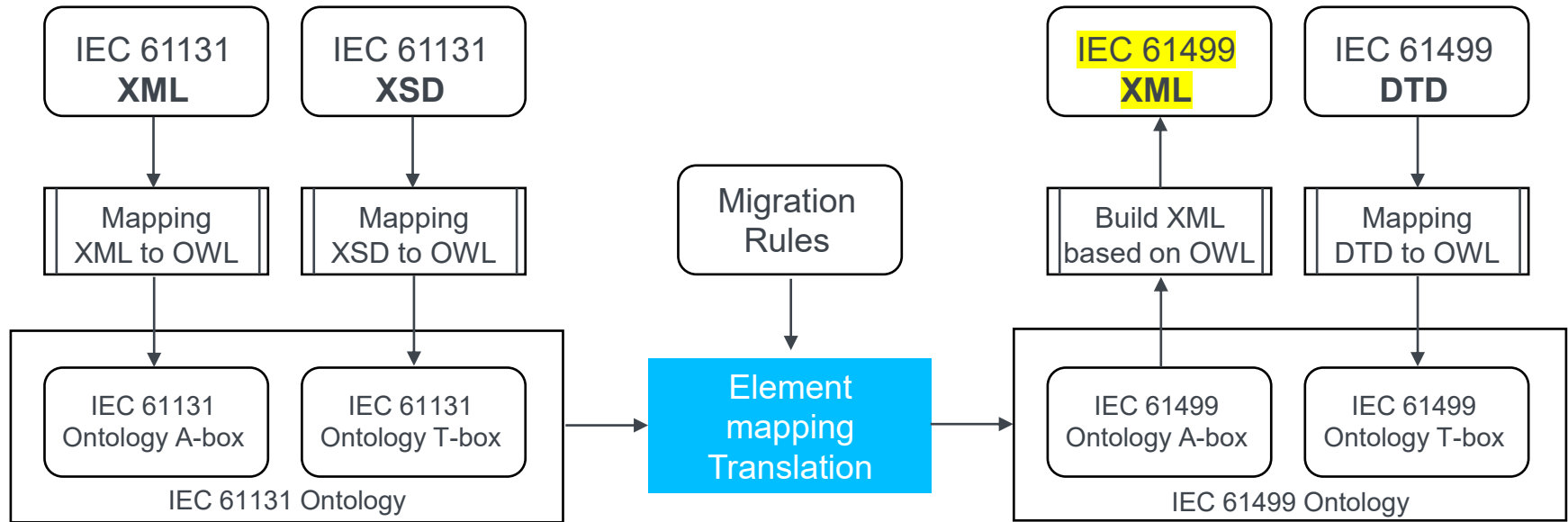
- [1] <https://blog.orientalmotor.com/what-is-modular-automation>
- [2] Process INDUSTRIE 4.0: The Age of Modular Production On the doorstep to market launch, ZVEI –Zentralverband Elektrotechnik und Elektronikindustrie e. V. March 2019
- [3] P. Gsellmann, M. Melik-Merkumians, A. Zoitl and G. Schitter, "A Novel Approach for Integrating IEC 61131-3 Engineering and Execution Into IEC 61499," in *IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics*, vol. 17, no. 8, pp. 5411-5418, Aug. 2021, doi: 10.1109/TII.2020.3033330.
- [4] C. Sünder, M. Wenger, C. Hanni, I. Gosetti, H. Steininger and J. Fritsche, "Transformation of existing IEC 61131-3 automation projects into control logic according to IEC 61499", *Proc. 13th IEEE Int. Conf. Emerg. Technol. Factory Autom.*, pp. 369-376, Sep. 2008.
- [5] C. Sünder, A. Zoitl, J. H. Christensen, H. Steininger and J. Fritsche, "Considering IEC 61131-3 and IEC 61499 in the context of component frameworks", *Proc. 6th IEEE Int. Conf. Ind. Informat.*, pp. 277-282, Jul. 2008.
- [6] M. Wenger, A. Zoitl, C. Sünder and H. Steininger, "Transformation of IEC 61131-3 to IEC 61499 based on a model driven development approach", *Proc. 7th IEEE Int. Conf. Ind. Informat.*, pp. 715-720, Jun. 2009.
- [7] W. Dai and V. Vyatkin, "Redesign distributed PLC control systems using IEC 61499 function blocks", *IEEE Trans. Autom. Sci. Eng.*, vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 390-401, Apr. 2012.

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- [9] W. Dai, V. Vyatkin and V. Dubinin, "Ontology-based design recovery and migration between IEC 61499-compliant tools", *Proc. 37th Annu. Conf. the IEEE Ind. Electron. Soc.*, pp. 4332-4337, Nov. 2011.
- [10] W. Dai, V. N. Dubinin and V. Vyatkin, "Migration From PLC to IEC 61499 Using Semantic Web Technologies," in *IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics: Systems*, vol. 44, no. 3, pp. 277-291, March 2014, doi: 10.1109/TSMCC.2013.2264671

# Migration to IEC 61499 Strategy

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