SoftMotion Drive Interface (SDI)

Last Updated: Wednesday, April 15, 2015

# Audience

This project is meant to track opportunities related to the SDI and third-party EtherCAT motor drives. It will also direct sales and marketing teams to information that can assist them with these opportunities.

**Note:** NI has native, preferred support for Kollmorgen EtherCAT AKD drives without the SDI. Support resources for these can be found at [niweb/motion](https://nitalk.jiveon.com/groups/motion).

# Content and Messaging

## The Sales Message

### To Customers

**Does a customer want to use NI products for motion control?**

NI has an extensive portfolio of motion products based around stepper and servomotor technology. If a customer does not have a drive/motor selected for an application, our partnership with Kollmorgen allows us to resell virtually any piece of hardware they make. NI also offers its own branded line of stepper drives and motors, ensuring we have a solution for many industry needs.

**Does a customer want to use a third-party EtherCAT motor drive with LabVIEW?**

In the past, building motion applications that interface with third-party EtherCAT drives has been a pain point for customers and integrators alike. Developers were required to map memory registers on the drive as variables in LabVIEW, then provide them to NI SoftMotion before they could even make a motor spin. These actions represent a significant time and effort investment that must be repeated with every new drive and application.

National Instruments has released a new feature in our motion software called the SoftMotion Drive Interface (SDI). The SDI allows developers to create an installable Plug-in for SoftMotion that adds plug-n-play support for a third-party EtherCAT drive. Furthermore, National Instruments has partnered with many popular drive vendors that have already provided SDI Plug-ins for their drives.

With this new feature and these partnerships, NI customers can work with their preferred EtherCAT motor drives and NI SoftMotion. There is no difficult integration step anymore; only a simple VI Package installation and customers can work with their drives and SoftMotion in a LabVIEW project.

We have a multitude of drive vendors that have committed to supporting the SoftMotion Drive Interface, and we are always interested in growing our drive partner network. At any time, customers can visit our drive partner site for more information:

HYPERLINK TO WHITEPAPER

This location will give customers direct links to the LabVIEW Tools Network product pages for each partner-owned SDI Plug-in. Customers can download and install a Plug-in for their drive and begin developing a motion control application in LabVIEW using NI SoftMotion.

### To Drive Vendors

**Does the drive vendor have an EtherCAT drive? Does the drive vendor plan to create an EtherCAT drive?**

National Instruments is releasing a feature in our motion software called the SoftMotion Drive Interface (SDI). The SDI is an interface layer that provides for LabVIEW based connection and control of EtherCAT drives from any NI real-time controller. Once an SDI is written and provided for a specific servo drive, customers can use that drive as a plug-n-play axis from any NI EtherCAT master controller. All PDO/SDO and state-machine management is handled in the SDI; the customer discovers the axis and can immediately start programming high level moves using the NI SoftMotion API.

## The Marketing Message

Things and stuff.

### To Customers

### To Drive Vendors

## For ASE

Things and stuff.

# Contacts

## Marketing Contacts

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## R&D Contacts

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