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## GENERAL INFORMATION

Heat appliance OEMs are driving the market to enhance the functionality of the traditional on/off switching systems based on thermostats or other controllers. Specific "high end" features include modulation on room temperature, remote control, etc. This new situation represents a challenge to the suppliers of controls in the heating industry. Due to this technology change new players (including OEMs and non-traditional suppliers) are trying to position themselves. This leads into a situation that many players are in the process of developing proprietary, non-compatible solutions. Going away from a standard protocol is not in the interest of the control industry, nor the installer or end-user. Most OEMs would appreciate a standard communication protocol like the present-day 24V on/off control also for more sophisticated control systems, because a broadly accepted industry standard decreases the number of product types and increases the economy of scale.

The OpenTherm Association addresses this issue by controlling a low cost communication protocol aimed at residential heating applications. The object of the association is to promote the introduction and the adoption of the OpenTherm protocol and interface specification as the technical standard for point-to-point communication in HVAC control systems. This protocol is outlined in a Protocol Specification.

The association is owner of the IPRs relating to the Protocol Specification, the OpenTherm trademark and logo and all the copyrights. All improvements or enhancements of the protocol are fully under control of the association. The use of the protocol by manufacturers of boilercontrols or (room)controls or appliance OEMs, is controlled by the provision of licenses which entitle the licensee to use the protocol in its products and to attach the OpenTherm name and logo to these products. The license that entitles the licensee the use of the OpenTherm name and logo for a particular implementation shall be granted after the conformity of this implementation with the standard has been verified by an independent test laboratory. The test performed by this laboratory shall be based on the Test Specification provided by the association.

Only members of the association can apply for the test procedure and only members of the association can obtain a licence to use the OpenTherm name and logo on a certified product. The license fee is included in the membership fee. The right to use the OpenTherm name and logo is transferable to an OEM or other supplier who is providing a product, without further financial or legal obligations towards the association. This way the association intends to ascertain that only the manufactures that are technically responsible for the implementation of the OpenTherm protocol are involved in the technical activities of the association. At the same time the association endeavours a broad representation of all parties involved in the marketing and sale of OpenTherm products.

Membership of the association is open to all interested parties that meet the following requirements:

- a. being a legal entity, partnership or natural person whose business purpose includes the manufacture, distribution or installation of equipment, the primary purpose of which is concerned with heating or cooling systems or its controls;
- b. demonstrating an intention to actively participate in the aims of the association through the design, manufacture or marketing of systems incorporating the OpenTherm standard.

Membership of the association implies the right to control the activities of the association, both regarding the promotion of the protocol as the technical development of the OpenTherm standard. Members can also apply for a membership of the Board. The association also knows honorary members who are legal entities, natural persons or partnerships appointed as such by the Board on the ground of the circumstances that they have special merits for the association.

Membership fee is 2300,- Euro. The height of the fee is governed by the principle that the revenues should only cover the operational costs of the association. Membership fee due by ordinary members shall annually be fixed by the Board. No membership fee is due by the honorary members.

Interested parties wishing to become an ordinary member should apply for membership to the secretary of the Board by means of the application form attached. The applicant shall state on which grounds he is of the opinion that he meets the requirements mentioned under a. and b. above. The secretary of the Board shall notify the applicant in writing whether or not he is admitted as ordinary member.

Interested parties wishing to obtain further information regarding the association, the communications protocol or the licensing process should contact the secretariat at the address above. The Protocol Specification can be made available for evaluation purposes to non members of the association. A separate Protocol Specification request form is available.