

## Vision for the LXI Reference Design

By [Steve Schink](#),  
[LXI Consortium](#) President

The LXI Consortium will be celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LXI Standard in 2015. We have had unprecedented Test and Measurement (T&M) industry success with the development and adoption of the LXI (LAN eXtensions for Instrumentation) Standard. Today, we have 53 of the top T&M companies sponsoring and developing this technology, and 2593 LXI conformant products in 259 product families.

Our vision for the future of the LXI Consortium is to maintain and expand the global adoption and utilization of the LXI standard by T&M instrument vendors and their customers. LAN is ubiquitous, it is used everywhere, and the T&M applications and instrument systems taking advantage of network connectivity and communication are growing rapidly. Global adoption and utilization of the LXI Standard by instrument vendors will help to provide a lower cost, consistent, predictable and multi-vendor interoperable experience for our customers building network-based T&M test systems.

One of our strategies to achieve the global adoption and utilization vision is to provide a “technical blueprint” for our members to use when building LXI instruments. We have exciting work underway within the LXI Technical Committee to develop an LXI Reference Design and Implementation for use by our member companies. We recently completed the requirements-definition and planning phase, and have signed a contract with TSE Plazotta to develop the LXI Reference Design and Implementation with review and guidance from the LXI Consortium.

The initial LXI Reference Design and Implementation will support the following LXI Version 1.4 Specification features:

- LXI Device Specification “Core” Features
- LXI Extended Functions:
  - LXI Event Messaging
  - LXI Event Logs
  - HiSLIP
  - IPv6

Our goal is to complete the initial LXI Reference Design by this summer and the initial Implementation by the spring of 2015. During this time, the LXI Consortium will finalize the licensing (free to consortium members) and support plans for supporting members using the LXI Reference Design and Implementation.

A few of the major benefits of the LXI Consortium providing a LXI Reference and Implementation include:

- Ensuring more T&M LXI conformant instruments are available to our customers, enabling them to have a lower cost, consistent, predictable, and multi-vendor interoperable experience when building network-based T&M test systems.

- Enabling existing and new LXI Consortium members to more quickly and cost effectively, develop and maintain LXI instruments that support the LXI “Core” and “Extended Function” capabilities.
- Enabling the LXI Consortium to more easily work with its membership to evaluate new and emerging network technologies as additions to the LXI Standard and deploy the additions to the membership through the LXI Reference Design and Implementation.

We encourage existing and potential new LXI Consortium members to get involved with this exciting effort, contribute your insights, work with the LXI Consortium to make this effort a success for our membership and our customers.

The LXI Consortium is truly excited to share our vision for the LXI Reference Design. We believe as the initial work completes in our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, 2015, it will set the stage for continued success of the LXI Consortium and its members’ LXI products for decades to come. For more updates on this exciting development, look to the future issues of the LXI Newsletter in 2014.