



The open partnership for more efficiency



CLAAS, AgXceed and Amazone founded the first autonomy association for agricultural machinery in 2023 to further develop standardisation across manufacturers.

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3A autonomy group supports standardisation in the AEF

Following its exciting launch at Agritechnica 2023 and having been awarded the Farm Machine Award and an Agritechnica silver medal, the 3A – ADVANCED AUTOMATION & AUTONOMY group is engaged in open exchange with other manufacturers as well as with the AEF (Agricultural Industry Electronics Foundation). As a result of the discussions that have taken place, there is broad consensus to drive forward the standardisation process under the umbrella of the AEF.

3A – ADVANCED AUTOMATION & AUTONOMY: broad consensus for open, cross-manufacturer collaboration

3A – ADVANCED AUTOMATION & AUTONOMY, the world's first cross-manufacturer autonomy group for agricultural technology, has received numerous international awards since its founding in the run-up to Agritechnica and generated a growing interest in highly automated and autonomous agricultural machines in recent months.

During Agritechnica itself, the 3A partners AgXeed, Amazone and CLAAS invited more than 30 other companies in the agricultural machinery sector to discuss the need for greater standardisation across the industry. The 3A group subsequently decided that the AEF (Agricultural Industry Electronics Foundation), as the platform for international standardisation, was best placed to deal with the tasks that lay ahead.

Since May 2024, the new AEF working group in collaboration with AgXeed, Amazone and CLAAS, and other manufacturers has been actively driving forward standardisation together with existing AEF working groups. Since experience suggests that this process may take some considerable time, a key task in the meantime will be push ahead with the practical implementation and further development of the 3A protocol for communication between tractors and implements.

The AEF has done an excellent job of standardising numerous interfaces and protocols in recent years, including ISOBUS, Precision Farming and electrification. *"To expedite the implementation of the 3A goals, it therefore makes sense to capitalise on this experience and strengthen the AEF network for reviewing standardised interfaces in the fields of automation and autonomy,"* explains Dr Martin von Hoyningen-Huene from CLAAS, Executive Vice President BU Tractors & Implements.

As a result, there are no plans to extend the number of partners in 3A – ADVANCED AUTOMATION & AUTONOMY. Dr Rainer Resch, CTO of Amazone explains, *"3A will continue to exist as a partnership for the joint development of highly automated and autonomous solutions"*. Lars Schmitz, CTO of AgXeed adds, *"We will continue to explain the 3A application protocol to interested companies in order to establish a uniform level of knowledge about technological advances and standardisation within the AEF"*.

About 3A – ADVANCED AUTOMATION & AUTONOMY

As the first multi-manufacturer autonomy group in the agricultural machinery sector, 3A aims to promote and accelerate the development, market introduction and standardisation of technologies for highly automated and autonomous fieldwork and thereby facilitate the standardisation of interfaces and communications protocols. AgXBox, CLAAS Autonomy connect and Amazone AutoTill are among the first solutions. The 2023 AGRITECHNICA Innovations Commission awarded a silver medal to the group founded by AgXeed, Amazone and CLAAS.

About CLAAS

CLAAS (www.claas-group.com) is a family business founded in 1913 and is one of the world's leading manufacturers of agricultural machinery. The company, with Head Office in Harsewinkel, Westphalia, is the European market leader for forage harvesters. CLAAS dominates the European market in another core segment as well – combine harvesters. CLAAS also holds the top spots in global agricultural technology with its tractors as well as its agricultural balers and grassland harvesting machines. Cutting-edge agricultural information technology also forms part of its product range. CLAAS employs more than 12,000 staff worldwide and generated a turnover of 6.1 billion euros in 2023.

About AgXeed

AgXeed was founded in 2018 and has quickly become a global pioneer in the field of agricultural autonomy. AgXeed's innovative technologies help address the global challenges of sustainable food production, taking into account important aspects such as labour shortages, soil protection and resource efficiency. The AgXeed product range currently comprises three AgBots with different chassis designs in power ranges from 75 to 160 hp, which are currently available in more than 20 countries, including Australia, Canada and key European regions. This market presence is supported by a network of highly qualified distribution partners. Further information: www.agxeed.com.

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