

Energy Conservation and Homecare Network

Greeting



Representative Director Katsuhiko Hiramatsu, Panasonic Corporation

ECHONET Consortium was established in 1997 with the aim of creating an abundant 21st century society where people and the environment live in harmony. ECHONET Consortium will celebrate its 27th anniversary in December 2024, thanks to your dedicated efforts and cooperation.

The ECHONET Consortium is advancing the establishment of standard specifications for foundational technologies such as interconnected home

networks and networks for small and medium-sized buildings and stores, to address environmental issues, energy challenges, decarbonization, and aging societies through the interoperability of various vendors' home appliances, facility equipment, sensors, controllers, and more.

The "ECHONET Lite specifications" announced in 2011, recognized as a standard protocol domestically and internationally, was recommended as a well-known standard interface for HEMS (Home Energy Management Systems) at the "Smart Community Alliance International Standardization WG Smart House Standardization Study Group" the following year, and was approved as an international standard in 2015. Subsequently, in pursuit of improved interoperability among multi-vendors, the "ECHONET Lite AIF specifications" was formulated, and a certification system was initiated in 2016. Thanks to the efforts of our members, the number of shipments of ECHONET Lite devices has reached almost 150 million units as of the end of the 2023 fiscal year with 120 device models, and the coverage continues to expand.

In recent years, we have been confronted with numerous significant challenges such as "global conflicts and associated economic/energy security," "global warming," "increasing frequency of severe disasters," and "aging populations." To address these challenges, many concepts such as the "The Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation," "Realization of a decarbonized society," and "IENAKA data linkage platform" are being considered and proposed.

In response to these concepts, the ECHONET Consortium believes that by providing a "Orderly collaborative creation space" where residential facilities and commercial equipment can be safely controlled and data can be utilized, we can contribute to the creation of new services that help solve social issues.

Specifically, the ECHONET Consortium will promote the development of technologies to realize the "Orderly collaborative creation space" by further enhancing and promoting the spread of the "ECHONET Lite specifications" and "ECHONET Lite AIF specifications" for multi-vendor interoperability in residential/business spaces, and by implementing further functional expansion of the ECHONET Lite Web API Guidelines in the internet space. Furthermore, we will expand our activities, focusing on the utilization of next-generation smart meters and DR-ready support, to achieve the realization of a decarbonized society and ensure further development.

We kindly ask for your support and cooperation in these endeavors.

ECHONET Consortium Directors and Auditor

Representative Director: Katsuhiko Hiramatsu Panasonic Corporation

Managing director: Kenji Shiraishi ECHONET Consortium Secretariat

Directors (alphabetically): Akira Ishihara Mitsubishi Electric Corporation

Hironori Nakata Sharp Corporation

Takayuki Amatsu Tokyo Electric Power Holdings, Inc.

Takeshi Saito TOSHIBA Corporation

Auditor: Nobuhiko Hatta Lawyer

About ECHONET Consortium

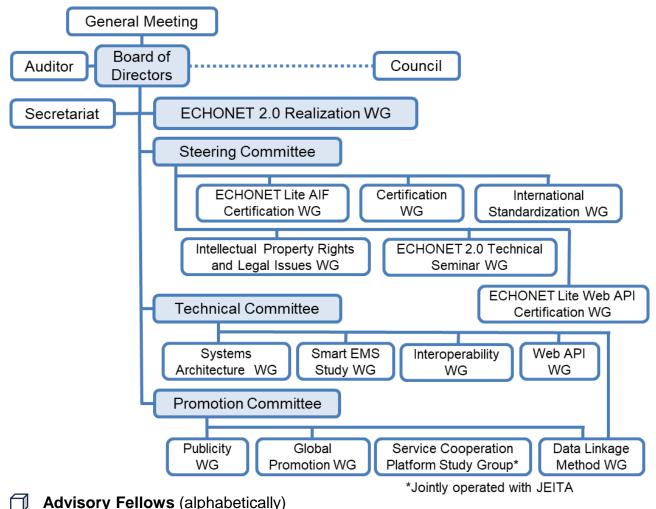
ECHONET Consortium is an organization that promotes Communication protocol "ECHONET Lite" for home appliances and housing facilities, which are essential elements of smart homes, to cooperate with each other.

We are standardizing the ECHONET Lite and promoting the spread of smart homes with support for commercialization of devices which support the ECHONET Lite standards and cooperation with related industries.

In addition to the ECHONET Lite standards, we also promote formulation of AIF specifications that regulate the behavior of devices and "ECHONET 2.0" to contribute to the realization of a prosperous and sustainable society "Society 5.0" by creating new added value.

ECHONET Consortium has about 260 managing and general members, their associate members, and academic members participated from the home appliances, electricity, electronics, energy, residential, and IT industries, as well as from academic and research fields. Its managing members are Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Panasonic Holdings Corporation, Sharp Corporation, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, Inc., and Toshiba Corporation.

Organization



Dr. Masaki Umejima (Keio University Project Professor)

Dr. Masao Isshiki (Kanagawa Institute of Technology Institute Professor)

Dr. Yasuo Tan (Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology Vice President, Professor)

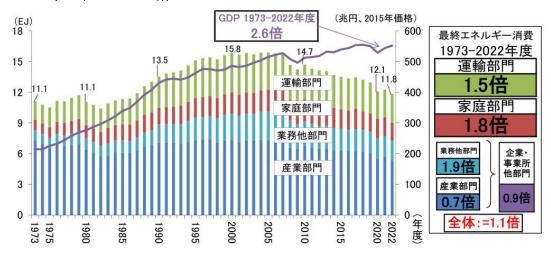
Changes in the environment surrounding smart homes

Trends in energy consumption

After reaching a peak in FY2004, the energy consumption in Japan has been on a downward trend. This is due to economic growth while curbing energy consumption as Japanese energy consumption moves towards energy saving, particularly in the industry sector, and the development of energy saving products has become popular.

However, when looking at trends by sector for growth between FY1973 (at the time of the oil embargo) and FY2022, while the commercial and business sector remained at 0.9 times with the progress in energy saving mainly in the manufacturing industry, because of the 1.8 times increase in energy consumption in the household sector.

In response to the tight power supply and instability of energy prices, there is a renewed sense of the importance of energy conservation in the household sector and smart homes are attracting attention as they help save energy in the home itself.



Source: Agency for Natural Resources and Energy - Japan's Energy White Paper 2024 (To be replaced with English version when available)

ECHONET Lite: A publicly known standard for enabling smart homes

To realize a smart home and an energy-efficient, comfortable, safe and secure lifestyle, a common agreement (communication protocol) that can be understood by devices from any manufacturer is necessary, and ECHONET Lite plays this role. The "ECHONET Lite Standard" established by ECHONET Consortium was recommended as a publicly known standard interface for HEMS by the Smart House Standardization Study Group established by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in February 2012.

Solar power generation

Solar power generation is predicted to reach approximately 140 million kW by 2030. To prevent power generation in excess of demand from impairing the stable supply of electricity, there is a need not only to "create electricity," but also to "store electricity" and "use electricity efficiently" through the introduction of equipment that can store energy, such as electric vehicles, storage batteries, and heat pump water heaters.

☐ ZEH

ZEH (Net Zero Energy House) is attracting attention as a type of housing that reduces energy consumption and is energy independent even in times of disaster. A ZEH is "a house that aims to achieve a zero balance of annual primary energy consumption through the introduction of renewable energies, after drastically improving heat insulation performance in its outer shell and achieving substantial energy conservation, while maintaining room environment quality by introducing highly effective equipment systems". In Japan, the policy target is set to "aiming to achieve ZEH for average new houses by 2030"

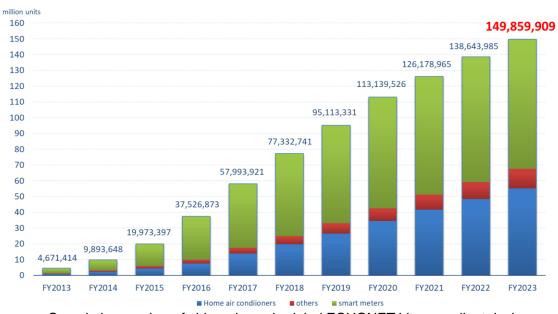
Smart meters

Due to an amendment to the Energy Conservation Act (Act on the Rational Use of Energy) that came into effect on April 1, 2014, the installation of smart meters is now mandatory for all households. Therefor since July 2015, all electric power companies have been working on installing smart meters with the goal of completing the installation by 2025.

There are three routes, A, B, and C, for transmitting data measured by smart meters. Of these, Route B is used for communication between smart meters and home (HEMS), and the ECHONET Lite standard is adopted here. This prompted the widespread use of ECHONET Lite devices in homes, making it possible for people to view their electricity usage measured by smart meters at home.

Diffusion of ECHONET Lite devices

The cumulative number of ECHONET Lite devices, excluding smart meters, shipped from FY2013 to FY2023 reached 67.58 million units. In addition, the total number of smart meters installed as of FY2022 and the number planned to be installed within FY2023 is 82.28 million units, bringing the cumulative number of devices equipped with the ECHONET Lite standard shipped to 149.86 million units.



Cumulative number of shipped or scheduled ECHONET Lite compliant devices

ECHONET Lite ss an international standard

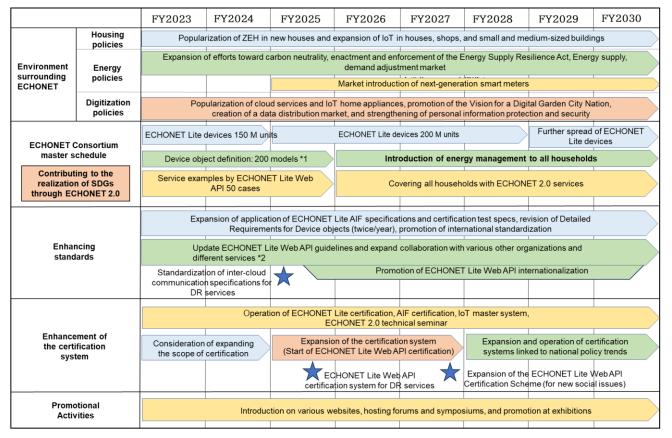
In 2015, the main parts of the Lite standard, "ECHONET Lite Communication Middleware" and "Detailed Requirements for ECHONET Device objects", were certified as international standards as ISO/IEC14543-4-3 and IEC62394.

In 2020, the "Interface Specifications for Application Layer Communication between home air conditioners and HEMS controllers" was certified as an international standard as ISO/IEC 14543-4-301, and in 2023, the "Interface Specifications for Application Layer Communication between storage batteries and HEMS controllers" was certified as an international standard as ISO/IEC 14543-4-302. Currently, we are working on proposing the "Interface Specifications for Application Layer Communication between electric vehicle charger/discharger/electric vehicle charger and HEMS controllers" to become the next international standard.

Overseas expansion

Since 2016, we have been focusing on promoting ECHONET Lite in Southeast Asian countries, and in particular, we have been working to spread the technology of ECHONET Lite and ECHONET Lite Web API in Taiwan.

Roadmap for popularization and expansion



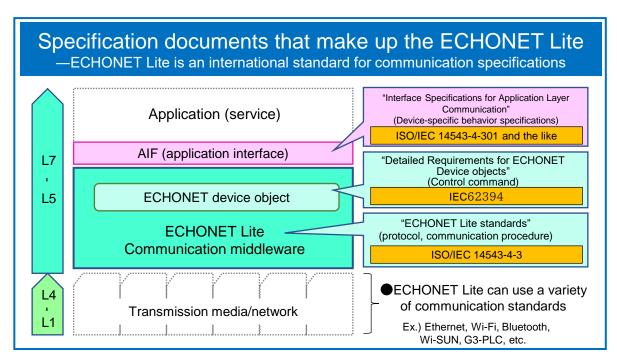
^{*1:} Definitions of ECHONET Lite and ECHONET Lite Web API, including collaboration with other organizations and different services

Approaches to the spread of ECHONET 2.0 Linkage with other Data distribution Solving social Carbon Neutral standards (Matter, Social Trends issues through IoT marketand **Progress** solutions society SAREF) and data utilization Equipment ECHONET Lite devices: 200M units (by 2028) Basic **Popularization** Roadmap Device object definition: 200 models (by 2025) **Device Object Extensions** Including ECHONET Lite Web API and others **Energy management** Introducing energy management to all households spread (by 2030) A. Based on device penetration Web ECHONET Lite Web API service examples: 50 cases (by 2025) Cyberspace ExtensionS Expansion Service Covering all households with ECHONET 2.0 services (by 2030) **Dissemination** Social Contributing to the realization of SDGs through ECHONET 2.0 contributions B. Expanded service integration

^{*2:} ECHONET Consortium- PCHA Guidance on Data Linkages and CHAdeMO-ECHONET Lite Linkage Guidelines were released in FY2022

Overview of the ECHONET Lite Standards

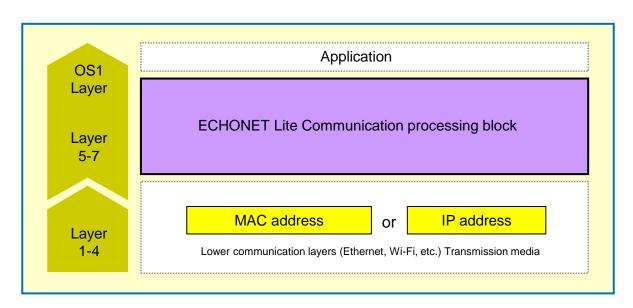
ECHONET Lite is a communication specification that enables resource-saving devices (such as sensors, home appliances, and facility-related equipment) to support IoT and realizes energy management service and remote maintenance service. By adopting common specifications for communication specifications and commands for devices, it is possible to build a system in a multivendor environment. The following figure shows the structure of ECHONET Lite specifications.



The main features of the ECHONET Lite that realizes IoT for resource-saving equipment and realizes interconnection between multiple vendors are shown below.

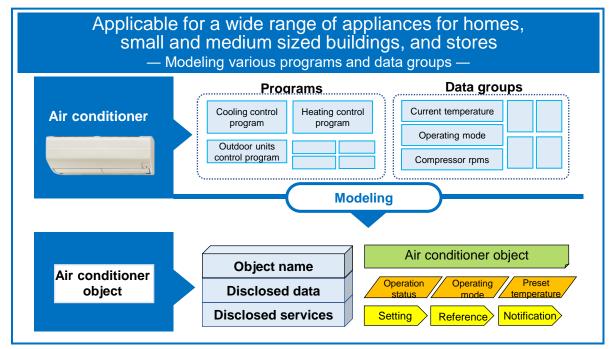
(1) Various existing standard transmission media can be used

The scope specified in ECHONET Lite is L5 and higher in the OSI Reference Model and does not depend on lower-layer communication specifications. The communication address specifies recipients by using an IP address or MAC address of transmission media. Therefore, it is possible to select a reasonable transmission media source from the market based on various requirements, such as services and applications.



(2) Applicable for a wide range of appliances for homes, small and medium-sized buildings and stores

Since its establishment in 1997, ECHONET Consortium has defined and expanded control commands that model the diverse programs and data groups of various devices as device objects.



We have defined device objects for more than 120 models so far, including sensors, energy-saving devices such as air conditioners and lighting, energy-storing devices such as storage batteries and heat-pump water heaters, energy-generating devices such as solar power generators and fuel cells, measurement devices such as smart meters, and commercial devices such as commercial-use package air conditioners and showcases. Note that the device objects are classified into seven different groups (class groups) according to their use.

Class group code	Class group	Examples	
0x00	Sensor-related device class group	Fire sensors, motion detection sensors, temperature sensors, CO2 sensors, current sensors, etc.	
0x01	Air conditioner-related device class group	Air conditioners, fans, ventilation fans, air cleaners, heating carpets, oil fan heaters, commercial-use package air conditioners, etc.	
0x02	Housing/facilities-related device class group	Electric shades/curtains, water heaters, electronic locks, smart meters, solar power generators, storage batteries, fuel cells, general lightings, single function lightings, emergency lights, lighting systems, expansion lighting system, etc.	
0x03	Cooking/Household- related Device Class Group	Microwave oven, dishwashers, dish drying machines, washing machines, clothes drying machines, commercial-use refrigerated display cases, etc.	
0x04	Health-related device class group	Scales, body fat analyzers, thermometers, blood pressure monitors, blood glucose meters, etc.	
0x05	Management/operation- related device class group	Controllers, switch (HA equipment), etc.	
0x06	Audiovisual-related device class group	Television, display, etc.	

(3) Further interoperability improvement for key devices

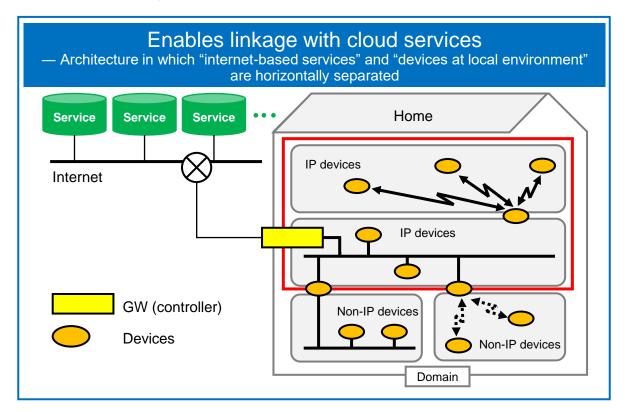
The ECHONET Lite standards have become general-purpose specifications that can be applied to all over 120 types of devices thanks to achieve a high level of interoperability by conducting standard conformity certification tests. The ECHONET Consortium has defined more than ten types of devices as key devices, including home air conditioners, storage batteries, solar power generation, commercial-use package air conditioners, and smart meters (high/low voltage). In order to achieve a higher level of interoperability for these devices, the ECHONET Consortium has formulated the Interface Specifications for Application Layer Communication (AIF specifications) which define the specific usage of ECHONET Lite at the application level of each device. For example, the AIF specifications defines the following items:

- Installed device objects
- Combination of supported properties
- Timeout after sending a request until receiving a response
- Sequence assuming concrete use case

In addition, by conducting standards conformance certification tests for AIF specifications at a third-party testing laboratory certified by the ECHONET Consortium, we are conducting more reliable tests.

(4) Enables linkage with cloud services

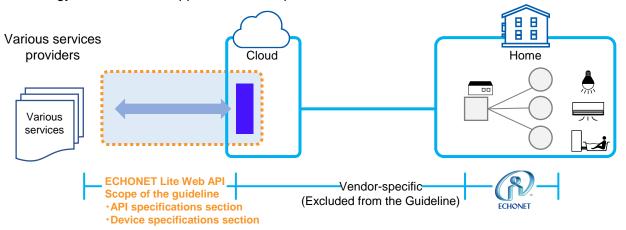
It is important to study overall system architecture to study communication specifications. When we formulated the ECHONET Lite communication specifications, we designed an architecture which set controllers or similar devices which have gateway functions between various internet-based services and devices installed at local environment such as ordinary homes. The figure below shows an example system configuration.



Because the system above can be built, specifications study and development in services and devices can be done respectively and parallelly. This enables us to expect services to be provided not only by device manufacturers but also by various service providers.

ECHONET Lite Web API

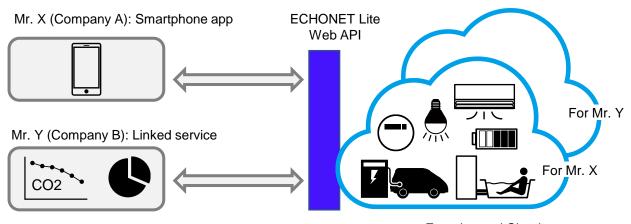
As IoT technology evolves, the cloud-based service delivery model is developing. Under these circumstances, it is conceivable that the various services and application development that effectively uses ECHONET Lite devices, which are becoming increasingly popular, will be developed as new businesses. As a measure to boost the number of service providers that provide those businesses, the ECHONET Consortium formulated the ECHONET Lite Web API Guidelines which are common technology for service and application developers.



The ECHONET Lite Web API Guidelines are composed of two types of documents: (1) API specifications section that summarizes the definition policies of the Web API models and the mapping policies from ECHONET Lite specifications; and (2) Device specifications section that summarizes the Device Description for each device.

The API specifications section supports: (1) basic use cases including obtaining device lists and obtaining and controlling device status; and (2) application use cases including grouping multiple devices and obtaining historical data. In the Device specifications section, specifications are being developed sequentially, with priority given to (1) AIF devices and (2) ECHONET Lite certified devices.

To conduct operation verification of services compliant with the ECHONET Lite Web API Guidelines, an Experimental Cloud compliant with the guidelines is provided as a free service exclusively for ECHONET Consortium members. The Experimental Cloud grants an account to each applicant so he/she can freely formulate emulation device configurations that is suitable for the services to be developed that are assumed by each user.



Experimental Cloud

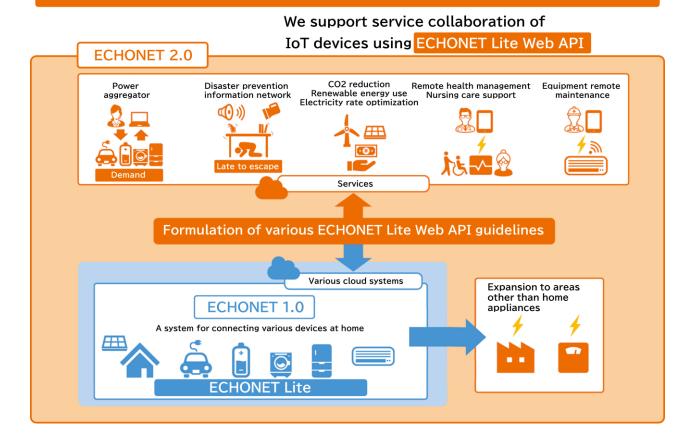
ECHONET 2.0

The world that ECHONET 2.0 is aiming for

Nowadays, various services are increasing in the virtual space on the cloud, and it has become the age that is aiming to realize a super smart society by Cyber Physical System (CPS). As the Internet environment and the society change drastically, ECHONET Consortium set up the "ECHONET 2.0 Strategic Guidelines" in February 2022 to contribute to the realization of SDGs and is strengthening the cooperation with related organizations along with expanding the ECHONET Lite standards and AIF specifications. Toward the widespread adoption of ECHONET Lite devices and services that utilize the ECHONET Lite Web API, we will enhance interoperability through the expansion of related standards and certifications and realize an "Orderly collaborative creation space."

ECHONET 2.0 aims to expand in two directions. The first one is to expand and enrich the ECHONET Lite standards, which has become popular in homes and lifestyles, to fields other than home appliances and housing equipment. The second one is to create and expand new value by expanding service collaboration on the cloud using ECHONET Lite Web APIs, so that various devices in the home can be connected to all kinds of services in the evolving digital society.

In the evolving digital society, IoT devices will be connected to all kinds of services.



Contribution to the realization of SDGs

Through the formulation of the ECHONET Lite standards, ECHONET Consortium has strengthened the creation of an environment in which the interoperability of resource equipment groups can be verified. In the future, in addition to this, we will work to create an environment where we can certify reliable operators and confirm interconnectable cloud interfaces in cyber space and by realizing the "Orderly collaborative creation space", aim to build a cooperative relationship between service providers and equipment manufacturers and contribute to the realization of SDGs.

Certification system

Purpose and Benefit of Certification

By FY2023, 149.8 million ECHONET Lite devices had been shipped to the market.

Various services, including energy-saving and home security services, can be brought to the real world by combining ECHONET Lite devices to build a home network.

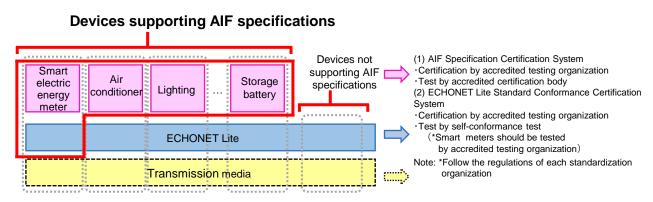
The ECHONET Consortium established a certification system to prove that products are properly compliant with the ECHONET Lite standard and the AIF specifications so that users can feel confident in building a home network.

Overview of Certification system

There are two certification systems established by the ECHONET Consortium: (1) ECHONET Lite Standard Conformance Certification and (2) Application Communication Interface Specification Conformance Certification System (AIF Specification Certification System).

Under the ECHONET Lite Standard Conformance Certification System, an applicant tests its device by itself based on the ECHONET Lite device certification test specification documet to confirm that the device conforms to the ECHONET Lite standards and the Detailed Requirements for ECHONET Device objects. Then, the applicant submits the test results to an accredited certification body. The accredited certification body makes a pass or fail judgment of the device based on the test results and grants an ECHONET Lite Standard Certification Registration Certificate if the application meets the criteria.

Under the AIF Specification Certification System, an accredited testing organization tests the device based on the corresponding AIF Specification Certification test specification document, and after the accredited certification body confirms that the device has obtained the ECHONET Lite Standard Conformance Certification, it will make a pass or fail judgment of the device based on the test results of the accredited certification body and grant an AIF Specification Certification Registration Certificate if the equipment meets the criteria. If the applicant obtains AIF Specification Certification for a smart meter, it is necessary to conduct a test to obtain the ECHONET Lite Standard Conformance Certification at an accredited testing organization.



The accredited certification bodies and accredited testing organizations are listed below. https://echonet.jp/kikaku-ninshou_en/list

Products which obtained ECHONET Lite Standard Conformance Certification Certification and products which obtained AIF Specification certification are published on the ECHONET Consortium website.

Main Activities

Development of the ECHONET Lite Standards

We are continually engaged in the addition and revision of ECHONET device objects and are constantly developing the ECHONET Lite Standards.

International Standardization Activities

We are working on the international standardization of ECHONET Lite specifications and AIF specifications in international standards organizations such as IEC and ISO/IEC (JTC1). Through these activities, we are increasing international awareness of the ECHONET.

Forum (twice a year)

This is a member only event. We introduce the initiatives and activity status of the ECHONET Consortium and introduce the products of each member company.

Symposium (once a year)

In order to make non-members aware of the latest information surrounding ECHONET, ECHONET Lite, ECHONET 2.0, and ECHONET Consortium, we will host the forum where we provide the presentations by external experts, people from related ministries and agencies and related companies and organizations as well as the information about our activities.

Workshop

We hold the "Home Appliance Open Innovation Workshop" with the aim of increasing the potential of ECHONET Lite through discussions between members and companies that have adopted ECHONET Lite.

Plug Fest

Providing places for interoperability tests with products brought by the member companies aiming the improvement of interoperability of products implementing ECHONET Lite.

Exhibitions

Participating in CEATEC and ENEX in Japan to promote ECHONET Lite Standards and the member companies' products implementing ECHONET Lite.

Cooperation with Governmental and Related Bodies

Contributing to the formation of the home network market by participating in government-sponsored commissions and joining the projects with domestic and international home network standardization organizations and related industry organizations.



Internal Standardization Activities



The 21st ECHONET Forum

エコーネット・シンポジウム2024 スマートホームで暮らしを変える『ECHONET 2.0』



ECHONET Symposium 2024



Plug Fest



CEATEC 2024

Activities with related organizations

CHAdeMO Association

ECHONET Consortium and CHAdeMO Association created CHAdeMO-ECHONET Lite Linkage Guidelines to improve interoperability in system construction from controller (including some servers) to EV. This guideline clarifies the sequence of use cases for the entire system and the references to the specifications of both the CHAdeMO standard and the ECHONET Lite standard that realize the relevant use cases.

W3C WoT

ECHONET Consortium and W3C WoT (World Wide Web Consortium Web of Things) are collaborating and working together to expand their areas of application and create new value.

Since the ECHONET Lite Web API formulated by ECHONET Consortium refers to the WoT specifications, there is an affinity for the specification description format. For example, Device Description of ECHONET Lite Web API is based on Thing Description of WoT.

As the results of our collaborative activities so far, the addition of ECHONET Consortium and WoT collaboration proposal to the collection of use cases listed by WoT, and the confirmation of ECHONET Lite Web API and WoT collaboration at the plugfest sponsored by W3C can be mentioned.

At this plugfest, the Thing (device) of WoT that includes ECHONET Lite Web API compliant server functions is implemented, and connections and operations from a general Consumer (application) of WoT to the Thing are confirmed.

PCHA(Personal Connected Health Alliance)

ECHONET Consortium and PCHA studied data linkage technologies for effective use of both parties' data in web services based on a memorandum of understanding on collaboration concluded in October 2020.

By linking the "API" which handles home appliance and housing equipment data with the "HL7®FHIR®" Web API which handles health data, it will be possible to use it by individuals and their families at home as well as nursing care and other services in the regional comprehensive care network so that we aim to contribute to a more comfortable and healthy living environment such as use in pre-symptomatic care.

Membership and qualification System

Main Merits of membership

Merit 1	Members can review and comment on the ECHONET standard drafts. Members can also apply to add new device objects or change the properties of existing devices.
Merit 2	Members can display their products and technologies and introduce them at forums, symposiums, and exhibitions.
Merit 3	Members can participate in Plug Fest to conduct interoperability tests on their products with products and technologies from other members.
Merit 4	Members who obtain certification can place the $ECHONET_{TM}$, $ECHONET$ Lite _{TM} , $ECHONET$ Ready _{TM} and $ECHONET$ Lite AIF_{TM} trademarks on their products.
Merit 5	Member can acquire the Member ID/Manufacturer code necessary to develop ECHONET Specification-compliant products.
Merit 6	Members can use the ECHONET Lite Web API Experiment Cloud Service that supports service development for ECHONET Lite devices.

Membership and qualification

	Managing members* 1	General members* 1	Academic members	ECHONET IoT MASTER qualification
Eligibility	Company recognized as being capable of making a technical contribution to ECHONET	Any company in the world having interest in ECHONET	Educational institution having interest in ECHONET (university laboratory, etc.)	Individuals who have attended ECHONET technical seminars and have been certified
Annual membership due*2	3,000,000 YEN	300,000 YEN	_	_
Device object proposals	0	0	O*3	O*3
Approval of final specification (voting right)	0	_	_	_
Reviewing of and comment on the specification drafts	0	0	0	_
Viewing of certification specifications	0	0	-*4	-*4
Participation in General Meetings	0	0	_	_
Participation in Board Meetings	0	ı	_	_
Participation in Working Groups	0	○*3	_	○*3
Participation in Forums	0	0	0	0
Participation in Plug Fests ECHONET Lite)	0	0	0	_
Use of trademarks	0	0	0	0
Member ID/Manufacturer code	0	0	_	_
Viewing of members-only website	0	0	-*4	-*4
Subscription of newsletters	0	0	0	0
Use of certification tools	0	0	_	_
Use of ECHONET Lite Web API experimental cloud	0	0	0	0
Join the community site*5	0	0	0	0

^{*1:} Managing members and General members can assign affiliated companies as associate members.

Annual membership due for associate member is free and membership rights are the same as a general member.

^{*2:} Annual membership dues are excluded from taxation. From April 1, 2025, the membership due for executive members will be 3.5 million yen and for general members it will be 350,000 yen.

^{*3:} Members can participate in proposals and WGs at the request of the upper committee.

^{*4:} Necessary materials and information are provided by the ECHONET Consortium based on requests from the members.

^{*5:} A site for posting use cases, questions and answers, etc. for the purpose of learning support for ECHONET Lite.

Logo

The ECHONET logo represents people as the central player of ECHONET surrounded by systems and the environment. Drawing everything with a single line is symbolic of the cohabitation of people and systems. Blue represents the color of the sea which nurtures life, the color of a clear sky spreading toward the future, and the color of a clean environment which is the target of ECHONET. The Logo will be marked on home appliances which meet the ECHONET Specification.



ECHONET **ECHONETLite**_™ **ECHONETReady**_™ **ECHONETLiteAlf**_™ ECHONET IoT MASTER and the logomarks below are the registered trademark of ECHONET Consortium.







We are looking forward to your membership.

If you would like to join ECHONET Consortium, please apply below. https://echonet.jp/admission_en/

ECHONET Consortium Secretariat

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Inquiry form: https://echonet.jp/contact_en/

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^{*} We do not accept individual memberships.