What is claimed is:

1. An optocoupler transmission system (900) for controlling signal transmission through an optocoupler transmission medium, the optocoupler transmission system (900) comprising:

an optocoupler (115); and

a controller (920) coupled to the optocoupler (115) and configured to receive a transmit attempt from a first device (905), determine if a second device (907) is already transmitting through the optocoupler (115), determine if receiving the transmit attempt is outside a deadband period after a power-up occurrence, and transmit from the first device (905) through the optocoupler (115) if the second device (907) is not transmitting and if the deadband period has elapsed.

2. The optocoupler transmission system (900) of claim 1, with the controller (920) being further configured to hold off the first device (905) from transmitting through the optocoupler (115) until the second device (907) has completed transmission if the second device (907) is already transmitting.

3. The optocoupler transmission system (900) of claim 1, with the controller (920) being further configured to hold off the first device (905) from transmitting through the optocoupler (115) until the deadband period has elapsed if the transmit attempt is within the deadband period.

4. The optocoupler transmission system (900) of claim 1, wherein the optocoupler transmission system (900) includes at least two devices (905, 907) communicating through the optocoupler (115).

5. The optocoupler transmission system (900) of claim 1, wherein the optocoupler transmission system (900) implements a master-slave communication scheme.

6. A transmission control method for controlling signal transmission through an optocoupler transmission medium, the method comprising:

receiving a transmit attempt from a first device;

determining if a second device is already transmitting through the optocoupler transmission medium;

determining if receiving the transmit attempt is outside a deadband period after a power-up occurrence; and

transmitting from the first device through the optocoupler transmission medium if the second device is not transmitting and if the deadband period has elapsed.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising holding off the first device from transmitting through the optocoupler transmission medium until the second device has completed transmission if the second device is already transmitting.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising holding off the first device from transmitting through the optocoupler transmission medium until the deadband period has elapsed if the transmit attempt is within the deadband period.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the optocoupler transmission medium includes at least two devices communicating through the optocoupler transmission medium.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein the method implements a master-slave communication scheme.

What is claimed is:

1. An optocoupler transmission system (900) for controlling signal transmission through an optocoupler transmission medium, the optocoupler transmission system (900) comprising:

an optocoupler (115); and

a controller (920) coupled to the optocoupler (115) and configured to receive a transmit attempt from a first device (905), determine if a second device (907) is already transmitting through the optocoupler (115), determine if receiving the transmit attempt is outside a deadband period after a power-up occurrence, and transmit from the first device (905) through the optocoupler (115) if the second device (907) is not transmitting and if the deadband period has elapsed.

2. The optocoupler transmission system (900) of claim 1, with the controller (920) being further configured to hold off the first device (905) from transmitting through the optocoupler (115) until the second device (907) has completed transmission if the second device (907) is already transmitting.

3. The optocoupler transmission system (900) of claim 1, with the controller (920) being further configured to hold off the first device (905) from transmitting through the optocoupler (115) until the deadband period has elapsed if the transmit attempt is within the deadband period.

4. The optocoupler transmission system (900) of claim 1, wherein the optocoupler transmission system (900) includes at least two devices (905, 907) communicating through the optocoupler (115).

5. The optocoupler transmission system (900) of claim 1, wherein the controller (920) comprises a component of one of the at least two devices (905, 907), wherein the one of the at least two devices (905, 907), operates like a master communications device and the other of the at least two devices (905, 907) operate(s) as a slave communication device(s).

6. A transmission control method for controlling signal transmission through an optocoupler transmission medium, the method comprising:

receiving a transmit attempt from a first device;

determining if a second device is already transmitting through the optocoupler transmission medium;

determining if receiving the transmit attempt is outside a deadband period after a power-up occurrence; and

transmitting from the first device through the optocoupler transmission medium if the second device is not transmitting and if the deadband period has elapsed.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising holding off the first device from transmitting through the optocoupler transmission medium until the second device has completed transmission if the second device is already transmitting.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising holding off the first device from transmitting through the optocoupler transmission medium until the deadband period has elapsed if the transmit attempt is within the deadband period.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the optocoupler transmission medium includes at least two devices communicating through the optocoupler transmission medium.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein the method implements a master-slave communication scheme.