



Automation

NEWS RELEASE

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Photo available on CD—file name: MPANEL1

Compumotor's 6K Controller Pairs with CTC's MotionPanel

New Option Saves Programming Time

Rohnert Park, California, November 27, 2000—Automation leader Compumotor is pleased to announce the 6K motion controller is now available as part of an easy-to-use human-machine interface (HMI) that provides intelligent motion control integration. Beginning this month, the 6K Controller can be paired with a PC-based graphical user interface called MotionPanel™ to give end users such features as high-speed Ethernet communication, upload/download capabilities and built-in intelligence without the need for programming. Compumotor's best-selling controller, the 6K is a standalone device offering customers more flexibility and ease of use than ever before. Pairing the 6K with MotionPanel, manufactured by Parker CTC, is just the latest example of how Parker Automation is providing customers with seamless integration of motion solutions. "The 6K is the most successful control product we have ever released," said Compumotor's marketing manager, John Walewander. "And the 6K's level of complexity has been rising so quickly that we needed a tool to help customers use the controller effectively and easily. By working closely with our sister division, CTC, we have saved the engineer countless hours of programming time."

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The 6K

Conceived as a technology-independent motion controller, the 6K series can be employed in new designs as well as field upgrades. With control for two to eight axes (cascadable to 40 axes on a deterministic intermodule bus), the 6K serves both servo and stepper motor drives of any power rating. Any existing automation or motion system with an Ethernet port is compatible with the 6K.

By closely integrating software and firmware developments, the 6K Controller allows the customer to switch between stepper and servo control. The flexible architecture of the 6K enables an engineer to utilize either servo or stepper motors under one controller. Regardless of the application task, the switch is made through one command in the setup wizard in the Motion Planner™ software. “The same controller has the ability to control either stepper or servo systems on any axis based on the need of the application,” said Bill Green, product manager.

Other features supported by the 6K include input/output, multitasking and enhanced position following. Position-based following can solve applications such as packaging, bottle filling, web processing, continuous cut-to-length and flying knife with little or no inaccuracies. With the addition of new following features such as Virtual Master (the ability to track an internal count source when no external motion is present), Following Repetitive Cycle (making the task of extremely high-speed flying knife and web processing applications easier) and Web Registration (accurately following and tracking a specific web location), Compumotor now offers the most capable following controller on the market.

MotionPanel

MotionPanel brings a multitude of HMI features to motion control applications that traditionally use simple two- and four-line displays communicating over a serial cable. Unlike simple alphanumeric diagnostic displays, MotionPanel offers next-level monitoring and control capabilities that are made possible by the tight integration between CTC’s HMI and Compumotor’s 6K motion controller technology. As an example, the MotionPanel touchscreen allows 6K users to easily set distances or velocities with “one button” operation.

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In fact, MotionPanel comes with 70+ pre-configured motion control panels that automatically boot up when you plug in the system. Communication with the 6K controller is also unique; MotionPanel's intelligence automatically knows if the 6K is set up as a 2-, 4-, 6- or 8-axes system and the appropriate panels will be loaded. MotionPanel can even automatically determine if and what expansion I/O modules (analog or digital) are connected to the 6K system.

MotionPanel's upload/download capabilities will be a convenient time-saver for motion control applications. Users can upload--including scaling--from the 6K to the MotionPanel. 6K programs can be stored on MotionPanel's solid-state, Compact FLASH disk and then be downloaded to any 6K controller. This feature will enable instant 6K motion setup in the field via MotionPanel HMI.

Parker's CTC division has been developing factory-floor operator interface solutions since 1980 and became a part of Parker Automation in 1998.

About Parker Compumotor

A division of Parker Hannifin Corporation's Automation Group since 1987, Rohnert Park-based Compumotor is a pioneer, developer and manufacturer of full-spectrum computer-based motion controllers and related drives and servo/step motor systems. These products automate the manufacturing of a significant fraction of the world's goods and services. Compumotor products are sold via independent authorized Automation Technology Centers--a group of nearly 100 professional, highly trained organizations with more than 135 points-of-presence throughout the world--or directly from Compumotor by logging on to buy.compumotor.com. An informative and up-to-date Web site with downloadable libraries, tutorials, and background information on motion control and automation is located at www.compumotor.com.

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