New FX5UC PLC is small and mighty…

Providing a concentrate of accessibility and performance

Mitsubishi Electric has released the company's smallest and most powerful compact PLC to date, the FX5UC series Premium Micro PLC. Its diminutive size is set to help machine builders and manufacturers pack ever more functionality into a smaller space - while also providing the web access and network connectivity demanded by the latest Smart Factory applications.

Mitsubishi Electric has history with the micro-PLC

Mitsubishi Electric launched its first range of micro controllers, the FX family of PLCs, over 35 years ago as part of the MELSEC-F series. The high quality, compact size and cost competitiveness of control systems built around them established a precedent for creating new opportunities and revolutionised the industrial automation landscape and this still applies today. Over the years, the FX product portfolio has expanded to deliver state-of-the-art solutions to address different applications and requirements.

Now re-positioned as part of the high functioning MELSEC iQ-F series the new FX5UC model (the 'C' denotes compact) is engineered to handle the increasingly sophisticated data processing and communication tasks demanded by Smart Manufacturing applications. More precisely, this tiny PLC now houses the same performance CPU as Mitsubishi Electric's premium FX5U model in a product as small as a micro FX3S.

Multitasking is the future

This super compact PLC features a program memory of 64,000 steps and a large device memory. In addition, it has an execution speed of 34 ns, resulting in extremely fast machine responses and increased productivity. Even more, the FX5UC PLC can perform positioning and advanced motion control functions for up to four axes, eliminating the need for dedicated controllers that would increase hardware and maintenance costs, programming time and equipment footprint.

Additional built-in functions include tools to prevent data theft or tampering such as security key authentication, while allowing operators to access system status safely via the Web and interact with on-board features such as data logging.
Many small details have been considered in the pursuit of increased user flexibility and ease of installation, the use of spring clamp terminals for example speeds-up wiring activities whilst ensuring reliable and vibration-resistant connections. Since modules can be unlocked and moved together with their wires, maintenance and system change tasks are also made far easier.

Just when we thought compact PLCs might have reached their zenith in terms of size and performance, Mitsubishi Electric's FX5UC PLC seems to have broken the mould yet again, time to start redesigning those control panels and boxes.

Automation system engineers and integrators can also benefit

By incorporating flexibility and scalability, the FX5UC designers are looking to deliver an ideal solution for cost sensitive small machines as well as larger, networked multi-PLC systems. Networking capabilities help manufacturers to develop more integrated automated applications, especially when using other Mitsubishi Electric automation solutions. In this scenario complete manufacturing lines can be controlled, offering simpler system architectures and more transparent data management. On the other hand, open connectivity ensures compatibility with a wide choice of network options.
Image Captions:
Image 1: By incorporating flexibility and scalability, the FX5UC designers are looking to deliver an ideal solution for cost sensitive small machines as well as larger, networked multi-PLC systems.
[Source: Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V.]
Image 2 + 3: Mitsubishi Electric has released the company’s smallest and most powerful compact PLC to date, the FX5UC series Premium Micro PLC.
[Source: Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V.]

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Note to Editor: if you would like the text in another language please contact Carolin Heel at DMA Europa – carolin@dmaeuropa.com.

About Mitsubishi Electric

With nearly 100 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (TOKYO: 6503) is a recognized world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, energy, transportation and building equipment. Embracing the spirit of its corporate statement, Changes for the Better, and its environmental statement, Eco Changes, Mitsubishi Electric endeavors to be a global, leading green company, enriching society with technology. The company recorded consolidated group sales of approximately 40.7 billion dollars* in the fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2019.

Mitsubishi Electric Europe, Industrial Automation – UK Branch is located in Hatfield, United Kingdom. It is a part of the European Factory Automation Business Group based in Ratingen, Germany which in turn is part of Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V., a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Japan.

The role of Industrial Automation – UK Branch is to manage sales, service and support across its network of local branches and distributors throughout the United Kingdom.

*At an exchange rate of 111 Yen = 1 US Dollars, last updated 31.03.2019 (Source: Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market)

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