

Press Release

Schleicher Electronic banks on Sercos III

Berlin – Electronics expert Schleicher has been using Sercos technology for more than a decade. The latest project of the Berlin-based company was to integrate a Sercos III interface into its high-performance controller XCx 1100. “Sercos III brings about a performance increase, thus enabling our controllers to control more axes in less time, even in high-precision and extremely dynamic applications,” explains Metin Akinoglu, project manager at Schleicher. “We have had nothing but positive experiences with this communication interface. The technology for both, the controller and the drive sides, is completely vendor-independent. We have been able to implement the drive control in this application very easily, and within a very short time. Literally – it was easy as a breeze,” says Akinoglu. Schleicher has pushed for a fast integration of the Sercos III interface in its latest XCx model, progressing from the prototype to a standard feature within a single year.



Illustration: Schleicher's XCx 1100 high-performance controller features a Sercos III interface

XCx 1100: Control power for up to 128 axes

Schleicher's XCx 1100 is a high-speed control system that can be used for a wide range of very demanding applications. The controller runs two operating

systems in parallel: the high-precision real-time operating system VxWorks executes the control tasks while Windows XP Embedded is available for applications with an integrated user interface. Applications requiring a very powerful controller and no visualization benefit from the unit's high computing power. The basic XCx 1100 model is equipped with a Celeron M 1.5 GHz, but the controller can be upgraded up to an Intel 2 Core Duo. Featuring a solid state disc with 4 GB memory or more, the XCx 1100 does not require mass storage with rotating mechanical parts and operates without ventilation. Thus, safe and reliable operation is ensured even in rugged environments. The system combines motion control, CNC, and PLC functions according to IEC 61131. The CNC software coordinates up to 64 interpolating axes; another 64 axes can be controlled by the motion control modules. The controller is installed as a plug-in module on a rack. Its functional range can be expanded by digital and analog I/Os, function and communication modules, rack extensions and additional modules for customized configuration. The system can be connected to a wide range of standard drive systems and major fieldbuses. The XCx 1100 also features a CANopen interface, Sercos III On Board, three Ethernet ports, an integrated switch, an RS 422 interface, and an RS 232 interface for connecting operator devices, scanners etc. The Ethernet interface, in particular, is an all-rounder. It allows users to connect the controller, enabling integration into company networks as well as visualization, programming, and diagnosis. Peripherals such as mouse devices, keyboards, or printers can be easily connected via four USB ports, which also allow for easy software updates via USB stick, sparing the service technician an extra trip. When using the Windows functions of the XCx 1100, a USB port and the DVI interface can be used to connect the display to the integrated graphic card.

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Company Background

Schleicher Electronic, a leading partner for innovative automation solutions, offers a wide range of products for customers and users. The Berlin-based company develops and manufactures highly efficient control systems with unique performance ranges. Schleicher's fully integrated XCx series, one of the company's key products, combines logic, motion and numerical control into one system. Additionally, the product portfolio also includes networking and visualization components. Schleicher draws upon decades of experience in safety and control technology. Close cooperation with customers and precise application engineering ensure successful implementation of special solutions, ranging from individual automation components to customer-specific packages.

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