

# Blue Fusion controllers integrate factory with multiple web standards

Control Technology Corp.'s new Blue Fusion controller combines motion control, I/O control, and enterprise connectivity into one compact package

One of the many challenges facing engineers today is getting various automation technologies to work together on the factory floor in a way that optimizes the uptime and yield of their process or factory. To be successful, two fundamental problems must be overcome.

First, an automation scheme must be implemented to monitor and control all of the real-world devices, such as stepper and servo motors, analog transducers, switches, sensors, and touch screens. Unfortunately, this is often a difficult problem because the OEM has to struggle with the hardware and software integration of separate CPUs and programming languages from the various controllers connected to these devices.

Second, feedback data on the state of the devices must be made available for analysis so that the operation of these devices can be updated and optimized to meet the ever-changing needs of the factory. While this can sometimes be done manually, it is far more efficient to make device status data available to higher-level enterprise computing systems using automatic means such as networks. Companies frequently select an intermediary computer running a data collection or SCADA software package to connect to the device controllers via one or more field buses. This computer then collects and packages the data so that it can be sent to other enterprise computers in a form that is usable via an intranet connection. Setting up and maintaining the hardware and software for this type of middleware solution is expensive and time-consuming.

Control Technology Corp. (CTC) of Hopkinton, MA has solved both of these problems with its new Blue Fusion line of integrated automation controllers. The Blue Fusion 5100 series, which was introduced in January, combines fully configurable I/O, motion control, and HMI support with direct device-to-enterprise connectivity in a compact (1.8 x 8.3 x 5.7

inch) DIN rail-mountable package. Real-world devices are connected directly to the pluggable terminal blocks on the controller. Then the 5100 is plugged into an existing intranet, Internet, or other Ethernet-based network via its built-in 10/100 Base T Ethernet connection.

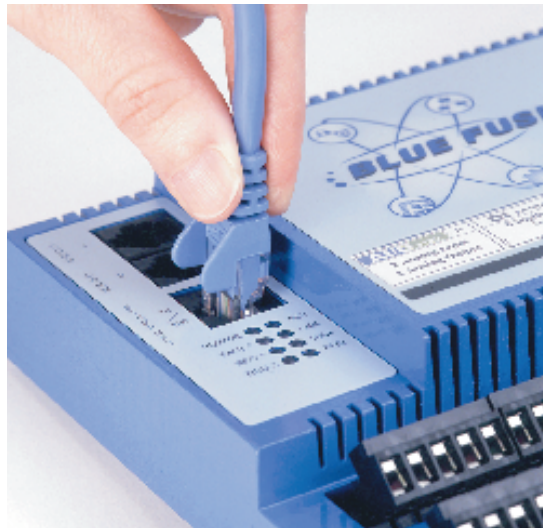
## Versatility, Compatibility, and Openness

Once the Ethernet connection is made, the 5100 uses patented technology to provide authorized users the

ability to monitor, control, or even reprogram the 5100 via Internet browsers and enterprise servers. Blue Fusion's Java-based server engine gives users a truly open solution through its direct support of existing IT and Internet standards, including HTTP, XML, SMTP, and SOAP. Now, getting dynamic, real-time data from the factory floor or from around the world is as easy as viewing a web page or making an XML query.

The 5100 can be easily configured for a wide variety of applications via its six internal function module bays. The controller can accommodate up to 50 digital and analog I/O points and up to 6 1/2 axes of

stepper or servo control, while two serial ports are available for HMIs, a programming interface, or other serial devices.



Blue Fusion provides advanced motion control with open IT and Web standards that connect the shop floor with the top floor.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit Control Technology Corp.'s website at [www.ctc-control.com](http://www.ctc-control.com), e-mail [info@ctc-control.com](mailto:info@ctc-control.com), call (800) 282-5008, or circle the appropriate number on the Reader Service Card included in this supplement.

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