

Embedded controller for Industry 4.0

At the Embedded World, Janz Tec (Germany) introduced the fan-less emPC-A/RPI controller. The Raspberry Pi based module features CAN connectivity and optionally comes with CANopen support.

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Christoph Mühlenhoff (Janz Tec): "We developed this CPU module within a couple of weeks." (Photo: CAN Newsletter Online)

THE HOST CONTROLLER IS BASED ON the Raspberry Pi 2 Model B. It provides a 24-V power supply. The housing makes it suitable for embedded control as well as for gateway applications. Besides four USB interfaces and one serial port, the controller features an optical-isolated CAN interface with a real-time clock. Additionally, the CPU provides four digital inputs and four digital outputs. Of course, the product is also equipped with one 10/100-Mbit/s Ethernet port.

The product is available without software or with a Linux (Raspian) operating system. The supplier also offers the programming of application-specific functions. For program storage, an optional µSD card can be used, which is externally accessible.

According to Christoph Mühlenhoff, many visitors were interested in the product, in particular because it features a professional CAN interface with optional CANopen support for a reasonable price. The screw-mountable device weighs 0,4 kg.