

Alternative to complex PLC systems

Unlike other controllers, Hesch's HE 5697 MFC multifunctional controller can control complex sequences in the process industry. The controller closes the gap between a standard controller and a PLC. It is available with CANopen.

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The multifunctional controller is a compact control device, which can replace a PLC (Photo: Hesch)

THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL CONTROLLER IS A CONTROLLER not only for thermal processes. It is also suitable for use in freezers, smelting furnaces or holding furnaces, as for use as a process computer or in pump control. Engineers can, using the software associated with the product, generate, optimize, and monitor complex sequence controls themselves. According to the company, they need no programming knowledge to do so. Thanks to the tool with a function block library and 'drag and drop' technique, configuration on the PC easy. Support by means of an external PLC programmer and the related disclosure of in-house process details are not needed for this.

The controller's communication options include CAN and other networks. The controller can be extended with various modules, called Himod. HE 5811 is a fieldbus coupler for CANopen; modules for Modbus, Ethernet, and digital and analog I/Os are also available.

Industrial processes – whether food manufacturing or steel production – are complex owing to their numerous and different ancillary processes. The controller has the appropriate function block libraries for many of these processes. It therefore permits the straightforward modeling of all sequences – without a PLC.

Its switch panel mounting housing (98 mm × 98 mm × 115 mm without connectors) saves space in the control cabinet. The front of the controller has protection level IP65, the housing IP20. Operation is possible via a resistive touch display and four assignable function keys. A galvanically isolated front micro-USB port for secure data transfer is available, as is a Cortex A8 with 600 MHz as CPU, a micro SD Card, DDR2-SDRAM, flash memory, and MRAM.