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MEMBER



MEMBER



ASCONcorporation

npe2006



Spring has arrived, and with it comes Ascon's final push to prepare for the upcoming NPE2006: the National Plastics Exhibition. A Chicago tradition, the NPE is held every three years to address new developments in the international plastic industry. From June 19-23, Chicago's McCormick Place will be bursting with all the newest ideas and innovations from the plastics industry.

Ascon Corporation will of course be present to also show our new innovations. Ascon will be in the North Hall, booth number **N4170**. Ascon Corporation staff, along with the support of our Product Managers from Italy, will be on hand to explain and demonstrate the family of Ascon controls and instrumentation and answer questions on products and applications.

Along with the familiar **gammadue®** and **deltadue®** controllers, Ascon will be debuting the new **sigmadue®** modules and **sigmaPAC®** complete control system. Power and innovation paired with exceptional modularity and flexibility allow the **sigmadue®** and **sigmaPAC®** to be used in the most diverse and demanding applications, and we look forward to sharing this exciting new technology with you. We will also unveil the new **gammadue® J5** auto calibrating pressure indicator.

We look forward to seeing you there! Remember booth **N4170!**

everything under control

from the president

ASCONcorporation

As **Ascon Corporation** marches into its second year, I want to thank our customers and share a little of what's new and what we have planned for the coming months and year.

Of course, NPE is now just a weeks away and this is a very significant event for Ascon. Please stop by booth **N4170** to see our new and existing products that will be on display, or just stop by to tell us hello. We are also bringing on some new staff members to Ascon Corporation this year— specifically some technical resources. Look on the back page in our reoccurring *Personal Profiles* section for a brief biography of our new **Technical Services Manager, Davide Bugatti**.

During the past year we have introduced you to our distributors, and while we continue to grow in that direction, we also want to introduce you to another of Ascon's partners in the U.S., boiler system manufacturer **Hays Cleveland**. See inside this issue for a synopsis of **Hays Cleveland**.

This issue's *Product Focus* is the Ascon **ACSTATION®** multi loop programmable process controller. Our *Application News* feature inside this issue outlines one interesting application using the **ACSTATION®**.

As always, feel free to contact us for any further information on any of Ascon's products.

the heat is on



Cleveland, Ohio based **Hays Cleveland**, a division of UniControl Inc, specializes in combustion control for commercial and industrial boilers, burners, furnaces, ovens, kilns and related boiler room control loops. **Hays Cleveland** established standard use of **Ascon** loop controllers and multifunction programmable controllers in 1996, and is expert in the application, programming, integration and field commissioning of this equipment.

Operating continuously for over 100 years, **Hays Cleveland** continues to provide a wide scope of originally manufactured products and customized control system integration in the combustion control industry. In this role, they are prepared to provide their expertise and support to **Ascon Corporation** customers requiring engineering and systems integration work. **Hays Cleveland** brings to the table 10 years of experience with **Ascon** **gammadue**®, and **ACSTATION**® product lines, as well as a systems integration background compatible with the newly released **Ascon** **sigmadue**® modules and **sigmaPAC**® complete control system.

Questions regarding **Hays Cleveland**, or boiler and combustion application inquiries can be directed either to Ascon Corporation at 630-482-2950, info@asconcorp.com, or directly to **Hays Cleveland** President Steve Craig at 216-398-4414, scraig@unicontrolinc.com. We believe you will find **Hays Cleveland** to be a valued resource and we are glad to have them in the Ascon family!

product focus

AC Station



Over the years, the Ascon **ACSTATION**® has been successfully applied in a variety of very demanding control applications. Some of the more noteworthy applications have involved industrial boiler and combustion control. The **ACSTATION**® is a natural fit for these applications since boiler and combustion control requires a significant degree of high level control reliability and security. Thanks to its flexibility, the **ACSTATION**® controls all boiler variables, including the combustion optimization. Dedicated function blocks include advanced PID, flow compensation and totalization. A large variety

of resident control strategies such as override, cascade and ratio provide the programmer with shortcuts for rapid and accurate application development.

ACSTATION® fills a variety of needs and can be integrated easily with other systems thanks to direct connectivity via internal Modbus RS485 communications. By using an Ascon DX or DY converter module, the **ACSTATION**® can seamlessly connect via Ethernet, Profibus or DeviceNet. The **ACSTATION**® programming environment is based on a powerful function block paradigm with over 100 function blocks.

Ascon's **ACSTATION**® is supplied standard with a user-friendly backlit LCD display. With only eight tactile feedback buttons, the user can easily navigate through all screens. The **ACSTATION**® is capable of managing up to 80 I/O points.

In addition to boiler and combustion control, the **ACSTATION**® has also been used in other diverse applications including food and beverage production, autoclaves for sterilization processes and in the test chamber industry for precise temperature and humidity control.

can you hear me now?

At Ascon, we receive frequent inquiries from customers looking to purchase control products with “less common” communication protocols, or customers asking simply to convert a Modbus RTU serial communications protocol to either Ethernet, DeviceNet, Profibus, or CanOpen. The good news is that Ascon does have a simple and very cost effective solution to this requirement.



Using the Ascon **deltadue® DX Gateway Manager** the Modbus RTU serial communications from the **ACSTATION®**, and from most other Ascon or competitor products, can be easily converted to any of the signals mentioned above. With Modbus RTU being such a dominant industry standard, the low cost investment of an external converter protects the sizable financial investment if emerging protocol standards change again. An easy to use software utility, called **Delta DX Manager**, allows the user to map the necessary Modbus parameters to the **DX Manager** data table. Vitrally important is that all parameters can be defined as Read Only or Read/Write. And best of all, communication speeds are greatly enhanced using the **DX Manager**—speeds of up to 12 Mbaud are possible, and the data table needs to be created only once for all transferring protocols! The **DX Manager** can also be used as just a cost effective DIN Rail mounted isolated RS232/485 converter without using the communication protocol converter—complete with diagnostic LEDs.

application news

when the wind blows

Ascon's **ACSTATION®** Multi Function Programmable Controller has a proven record of versatility, having been used in applications ranging from food processing to boiler control. Probably one of the more interesting applications of the **ACSTATION®**, however, is its employment as the controller of choice on the wind tunnel testing equipment of several European automobile manufacturers.

Wind tunnel technology has long been utilized by auto manufacturers to test automotive design for a variety of reasons, from aerodynamics to reducing wind noise in the passenger compartment. Measurement and testing equipment and procedures include using instrumentation for the measurement of pressure, temperature, force and turbulence intensity. In the automotive industry it is common to have a moving belt included in the wind tunnel to simulate road conditions, allowing for the additional variable of belt speed. On the order of a normal passenger car, the drag coefficient varies by 0.02, between rotating and non-rotating wheels. The variable is even greater for open-wheel vehicles, and Formula 1 and Indy car designers and engineers have gained valuable experience due to their exhaustive wind tunnel testing. Precise control over the many variables and accurate readings of test results are crucial in engineering comfortable, fuel efficient passenger vehicles, as well as for engineering faster more aerodynamic performance vehicles.



Visit <http://Raphael.mit.edu/Java/> to get a look at the Java Virtual Wind Tunnel, or visit www.asconcorp.com for more information on the **ACSTATION®**.

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everything under control

DID YOU KNOW

In 1970, Ascon was the first controls company in the world to design and manufacture a 1/16th DIN (48mm * 48 mm) analog temperature controller. This product is still in manufacture today as our MT Series. It is available with either an analog or digital setpoint

828202 AC

personal profile

meet our new tech services manager



Davide at work....

Ascon Corporation is pleased to introduce a new member of our staff to the North American controls and instrumentation community. **Davide Bugatti** has recently accepted the position of North American Technical Services Manager. Formerly in the after sales service department at Ascon, S.p.A., in Milan, Italy, Davide brings with him a wealth of information of Ascon's products and has chosen to make the transition to a sales support role here in the US. Davide's history with Ascon dates back to 2001, when he joined the company as a Field Applications Engineer. In this role he was responsible for a variety of customer service and support activities that included the planning and management of training courses as well as on-site installations and start-up and general technical support. Davide has also been instrumental in the development of control strategies for Ascon's **ACSTATION®** and **sigmadue®** multi-function programmable controllers.

Davide's extensive technical background includes an Industrial Technical Degree with a heavy concentration in Industrial Automation. His experience in these fields and a natural tendency toward problem solving has honed his ability to offer technical support to Ascon's customer base. His programming and software experience includes the development of control algorithms, architecture of Fieldbus and communications protocols and PLC programming tools. He is familiar with the entire Ascon product line and expert in most Ascon products. Customers will find him to be a valuable addition to the Ascon Corporation staff.

As you can see from the photo to the right, Davide is quite accustomed to handling precision equipment of another variety as well. In his spare time Davide and his fiancé, Barbara, enjoy motorcycling and ride extensively around Europe. His tamer hobbies include fishing, volleyball and basketball.

We are looking forward to welcoming this energetic addition to our staff. We know he will be invaluable to you as well. You can address specific technical and support concerns to Davide directly at d.bugatti@asconcorp.com, or call our office at 630-482-2950.



...Davide at play.

what's in a name?

are you on the net or the web?

Some may think that the Internet and the World Wide Web are one and the same— SURPRISE! They are two distinctly different entities that cannot work alone, but were developed separately and a world apart. The Internet is the body of a symbiotic organism that has spread across the globe in a very short time, while the World Wide Web is the mind.

Like modern day Frankensteins, Vint Cerf and Bob Kahn worked from 1973 on to stitch together the first three network demonstration in 1977. The Internet was formally "rolled out" in 1983, but the jolt that brought the system to life was not introduced until 1990, by Tim Berners-Lee. While working at CERN, *the European Organization for Nuclear Research*, Berners-Lee developed the text hyper link connections that make the distribution of information so seamless. Berners-Lee also coined the phrase "World Wide Web". So, although the "Web" cannot exist without the "net", the "Web" made the "net" useful.

For more intriguing info, check out www.w3.org.

Happy Surfing!