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New testing unit preps for next-generation sensors...

MTS ENHANCES LINEAR POSITION TESTING UNIT FOR HIGHER PERFORMANCE SENSORS

CARY, N.C. (June 6, 2007) — MTS Systems Corp., Sensors Division has implemented a third-generation testing unit for its calibration of linear position sensors that provides greater accuracy to more effectively meet the increasing performance of its next-generation sensors. The MTS Universal Tester III is based on a precision-grade, belt-driven linear module with overall resolution of 79-nanometers. Additionally, the system allows compensation for temperature and pressure variations and performs all test functions 20 percent faster than previous generation testers.

“The UT III tester has more capabilities and collects more data, which was needed to meet the sophisticated and continually evolving capabilities of our newest sensors,” said Drew Smedley, director of global marketing, MTS Sensors. “Our latest generation of Temposonic® products has significantly better performance in terms of resolution and linearity, and we expect this trend to continue as we move forward. Fundamentally, we have to keep our internal testers at the technology level required to support these product innovations.”

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“In addition to the overall measurement performance and calibration capabilities, there are also productivity benefits that allow us to continue to manufacture close to our customers in the United States and Europe,” said Smedley. “This helps us deliver best-in-class service, everything from fast delivery to technical support, while maintaining competitive cost structures. While some of our competitors have chosen to move manufacturing to low-cost labor countries, we believe that our customers value high quality and high service levels first. Investments such as this new tester fit with our strategy of improving the performance and quality of our products while keeping costs competitive.”

The new tester allows MTS to automatically “map” the linearity error of each sensor and program a compensated output characteristic into each sensor. Because the system is completely automatic it will improve testing throughput on the corrected sensors, which helps optimize costs for higher performance products.

As resolution requirements drop to the sub-micron level, mechanical stability of the test bed becomes critical. The UT III’s granite base is isolated from ground induced vibrations, and all fixturing is designed so that the sensor being tested maintains a precise orientation during the calibration process. Because products are moved on and off the tester every couple of minutes, it is important that the fixturing be designed so that it does not move or bend over time, which can affect the machine’s accuracy and repeatability.

The module’s guide (an actuator box with a palette on top that moves and holds the magnets, read head of the laser and the interferometer) is extremely stable in both up-and-down and side-to-side movements. Keeping the magnetics stable ensures an accurate reading of the output versus the magnet in the true magnet position.

For more information about the testing facilities at MTS, contact Drew Smedley, MTS Sensors Division, at 919-677-0100, drew.smedley@mts.com or via the Web at www.mtssensors.com.

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MTS Sensors, a division of MTS Systems Corp., is the global leader in the development and production of magnetostrictive linear-position and liquid-level sensors. Based on MTS' patented Temposonics[®] technology, the Sensors Division is continually developing new ways to apply magnetostrictive sensing technology to solve critical applications in a variety of markets worldwide. With facilities in the U.S., Germany and Japan, MTS Sensors Division is an ISO 9001 certified supplier committed to providing innovative sensing solutions that deliver customers with reliable, cost effective sensing devices.

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