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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2008 MTS478



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Non-contact sensors provide rugged durability to wood industry's harshest applications ...

MTS SENSORS' LINEAR POSITION SENSORS PROVIDE MULTIPLE MAGNET CAPABILITY FOR LESS SET-UP TIME, HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY

CARY, N.C. (March 13, 2008) - MTS Systems Corp., Sensors Division's Tempo-sonics® linear-position sensors can generate up to 20 simultaneous position outputs along a given sensing element, making them a cost-effective replacement for the traditional array of proximity sensors. This inherent capability of magnetostrictive linear-position sensors to provide multiple axis feedback along the same plane of motion, combined with the rugged durability of the non-contact technology, makes them ideal for wood industry applications such as paper and film slitters, log optimizer positioning, plywood press stroke, portable saw mills, router control and tree harvesting.

“Our linear position sensors’ multiple magnet capability can increase the productivity of certain applications relevant to the wood industry because the ability to measure multiple positions simultaneously can cut down on set-up time and downtime between runs,” said Tempo-sonics Marketing Manager, Matt Hankinson.

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Magnetostrictive sensors are particularly well-suited for multiple-magnet applications because they are capable of stroke ranges greater than 5000mm, but can also provide resolution as small as 1 micron.

Magnetostrictive position sensors are sonic wave sensing devices that use a high-resolution clock to determine accurate absolute position between a fixed reference point and a moving magnet. One return signal is created for each magnet, so if additional sensing magnets are added, there is an additional return signal generated for each subsequent magnet from the single interrogation pulse.

The benefits of using MTS Temposonics fieldbus-based multi-position magnetostrictive sensors include:

- Tool or cartridge positioning automation significantly reduces changeover time, allowing for a higher number of set-ups and, therefore, machine productivity;
- Use of smart programmable R-Series fieldbus sensors means set-ups can be stored and recalled directly at the PLC/HMI for even faster set-up times;
- Superior resolution and accuracy of the magnetostrictive position feedback results in more precise control, better process quality and less wasted product;
- Advanced diagnostics available as a standard feature in smart fieldbus sensors means less downtime due to maintenance and troubleshooting;
- The availability of multi-magnet sensing with longer, flexible sensing element sensors can help simplify shipping and installation, as well as eliminate the need to use overlapping shorter rigid sensors, reducing overall cost.

The multiple magnet capability is just one feature that makes MTS' linear position sensors a good fit for the wood industry. Ruggedness, durability and flexibility of the sensors provide significant benefits to the industry.

“MTS Temposonics sensors are designed and built to withstand the rigors of sawmill applications and have been wood industry’s standard for more than 30 years,” said Hankinson. Curve saw and other woodworking machines benefit from R-Series Temposonics technology to deliver high-speed and performance for hydraulic positioning feedback control in harsh environments. Recent advances in high-speed serial interfaces, enhanced shock and vibration resistance, and the availability of a precision velocity signal (simultaneous with position signal) have enabled new machine control algorithms that increase speed and improve yields, resulting in increased productivity and more profitable mill operations. Some applications have seen speed improvements up to 50% with a 20% reduction in wasted material.

Temposonics hydraulic-style sensors are pre-configured at the factory by model code designation. For many applications, no adjustments are required for normal sensor installation and operation, but if sensor parameters need to be changed on-site, the sensors are easy to program using one of three options - infrared wireless, pushbutton or PC software programming tools depending on the user’s needs.

Using external serial communication for monitoring and programming, there is no need to open the sensor’s electronics housing. Furthermore, simple diagnostic feedback like “normal operation OK”, “missing magnet” or “supply voltage out of range” are indicated by built-in weatherproof dual-colored LEDs. Keeping the sensor electronics isolated ensures seal integrity and the highest product reliability are maintained.

Other sensors use encoders for measurement, which make them much more fragile and vulnerable to harsh operating conditions. The magnetostrictive technology employed by MTS Temposonics sensors eliminates wear and guarantees the best durability and output repeatability.

The multiple magnet capability is available in select MTS Sensors’ R- and G- Series sensors.

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The R-Series sensors are smart sensors for fast, high-precision, and synchronized position control applications, available with SSI, DeviceNet, CANbus, Profibus, EtherCAT and dual output analog outputs.

The G-Series sensors are programmable sensors with built-in diagnostics for applications that require analog, start/stop and PWM outputs.

The E-Series sensors are designed for applications that require simple and economical position feedback.

For more information on Temposonics Sensors, please contact: MTS Systems Corp, Sensors Division, 3001 Sheldon Drive, Cary, NC 27513. Phone: (919) 677-0100. E-mail: info@mtssensors.com or visit their web site at <http://www.mtssensors.com>.

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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