

New FX5UC PLC is small and mighty...

Providing easy accessibility and concentrated performance

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Mitsubishi Electric has released the company's smallest and most powerful compact PLC to date - the FX5UC series Micro PLC. Its diminutive size is set to help machine builders and manufacturers pack ever more functionality into a smaller space - while also providing the web access and network connectivity demanded by the latest Smart Factory applications.

Now re-positioned as part of the high functioning MELSEC iQ-F series the new FX5UC model (the 'C' denotes compact) is engineered to handle the increasingly sophisticated data processing and communication tasks demanded by Smart Manufacturing applications. More precisely, this tiny PLC now houses the same performance CPU as Mitsubishi Electric's FX5U model in a product as small as a micro FX3S.

Multitasking is the future

This extreme compact PLC features a program memory of 128,000 steps and a large device memory. In addition, it has an execution speed of 34 ns, resulting in extremely fast machine responses and increased productivity. Even more, the FX5UC PLC can perform positioning and advanced motion control functions for up to eight synchronised axes, eliminating the need for dedicated controllers that would increase hardware and maintenance costs, programming time and equipment footprint.

Additional built-in functions include tools to prevent data theft or tampering such as security key authentication, while allowing operators to access system status safely via the Web and interact with on-board features such as data logging.

Very noticeably, the CPU module is a quarter the size of a conventional one, therefore it can fit into smaller spaces, freeing-up valuable on-machine or production floor space usually occupied by larger more conventional control panels. Other features also contribute to the space saving rationale such as incorporating 16 digital inputs and 16 built-in relay / transistor outputs, avoiding

the need to install additional, space-consuming terminal blocks in many applications.

Automation system engineers and integrators can also benefit

By incorporating flexibility and scalability, the [FX5UC](#) designers are looking to deliver an ideal solution for cost sensitive small machines as well as larger, networked multi-PLC systems. Networking capabilities help manufacturers to develop more integrated automated applications, especially when using other Mitsubishi Electric automation solutions. In this scenario complete manufacturing lines can be controlled, offering simpler system architectures and more transparent data management. On the other hand, open connectivity ensures compatibility with a wide choice of network options.

Many small details have been considered in the pursuit of increased user flexibility and ease of installation, the use of spring clamp terminals for example speeds-up wiring activities whilst ensuring reliable and vibration-resistant connections. Since modules can be unlocked from the rail and moved together with their wires, maintenance and system change tasks are also made far easier.



Image Caption: The FX5UC series Micro PLC is Mitsubishi Electric's smallest and most powerful compact PLC and is set to help machine builders and manufacturers pack more functionality into a smaller space. [Source: Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V.]

Note for editors: Mitsubishi Electric has history with the micro-PLC

Mitsubishi Electric launched its first range of micro controllers, the FX family of PLCs, over 35 years ago as part of the MELSEC-F series. Over the years, the FX product portfolio has expanded to deliver state-of-the-art solutions to address different applications and requirements. The high quality, compact size and cost competitiveness of control systems built around them established a precedent for creating new opportunities and revolutionised the industrial automation landscape and this still applies today with a record number of approximately 19 million installed MELSEC-FX controllers.

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With nearly 100 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation is a recognized world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, energy, mobility and building technology, as well as heating, cooling and air-conditioning technology.

Embracing the spirit of its corporate statement, Changes for the Better, and its environmental statement, Eco Changes, Mitsubishi Electric endeavours to be a global, leading green company, enriching society with technology.

With around 145,800 employees the company recorded consolidated group sales of 40.7 billion US Dollar* in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2019.

Our sales offices, research & development centres and manufacturing plants are located in over 30 countries.

Factory Automation EMEA

Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V., Factory Automation EMEA has its European headquarters in Ratingen near Dusseldorf, Germany. It is a part of Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V. that has been represented in Germany since 1978, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Japan.

The role of Factory Automation EMEA is to manage sales, service and support across its network of local branches and distributors throughout the EMEA region.

** At an exchange rate of 111 yen to the US dollar, the rate given by the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market on March 31, 2019*

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