NEWS RELEASE

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6K Controllers Ideal for Medical Applications

Rohnert Park, California, October 27, 2000—Automation leader Compumotor is pleased to announce its 6K family, a series of standalone motion controllers offering customers more flexibility and ease of use, offers the highly accurate and reliable cam profiling capability medical companies demand. (Cam profiling is a special form of electronic gearing where complex motion is generated as a function of another axis, an encoder or a virtual axis.) By integrating the latest technologies in both firmware and software, the 6K delivers multi-axis control (2-8 axes), Ethernet connectivity, servo or stepper interchangeability, expandable I/O, multitasking and enhanced position following. The package comes complete with our Motion Planner™ software, which enables the customer to easily program the 6K Controller.

"The 6K culminates an intense firmware and software development program here at Compumotor," said Compumotor's General Manager, Roy Glassett. "We set out to overcome our customers' architectural dependency on embedded interconnect structures like VME, STD-32,cPCI and PC/104. We also wanted to overcome device, sensor and fieldbus issues so that customers do not need to become network engineers. Finally, we sought to offer a standalone motion controller ready for the changes happening in PLC control. The 6K Controller is a breakthrough for the industry.

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6K Functionality

Ethernet communications provide customers an inexpensive (less than $200 per connection) and fast (10 Mbps) connectivity solution. The 6K Controller can be connected to standard Ethernet LANs or Intranets and provides an outstanding solution for remote development and maintenance communications. Data collection, diagnostics and maintenance, monitoring and production scheduling can all be accomplished on the same connection. Implementing Ethernet into the 6K Controller offers advantages over two traditional approaches to motion control. **Standalone approach:** Standalone motion controllers typically found in motion control applications rely on the widely used RS232 port for data transfer. RS232 serial communications are slow in the transfer of data and can be unreliable. Compumotor's approach for communication in the 6K is a strong alternative to this approach because it transfers data fast and reliably. **Bus-based systems approach:** The Ethernet connection found in the 6K is a strong alternative to traditional bus-based control (board level controllers) that require cumbersome and confusing cabling. In a bus-based system, communication connections are focused outside of the computer, which mandates all signals to be transferred outside the box.

Operation via Ethernet, using TCP/IP protocol, enables any-to-any activity. Ethernet support is provided in Compumotor's Motion Planner™ software environment that is included with the 6K. "Motion Planner is far less intimidating to the control engineer than any of the fieldbus-based software-development environments," said John Walewander, Compumotor's marketing manager. "It is a Wizard-based Windows 95/98 package that most control engineers already know how to use. Because it employs Compumotor's mature 6000 programming language, our existing customers are already experts."

Stepper or Servo Control

By closely integrating software and firmware developments, the 6K Controller allows the customer the ability to switch between stepper or servo control. The flexible architecture of the 6K enables an engineer to utilize either servo or stepper motors under one controller. Regardless

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of the application task, the switch is made through one command in the setup wizard in the

Motion Planner™ software. "The same controller has the ability to control either stepper or servo

systems on any axis based on the need of the application," said Bill Green, product manager. The

6K Controller serves both servo and stepper drives of any power rating.

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Expansion I/O

Input/output is another strong feature supported by the 6K. By providing external, expandable

digital and analog I/O modules for flexibility, the user can now determine how many I/O

expansion modules are necessary for their application. "Customers do not want to pay for

capabilities their application doesn't require," said John Guite, product manager. As demanded

by each specific motion control application, the 6K's unbundled I/O strategy supplies the correct

quantity of digital and analog I/O via modular bricks. With this architecture in place, I/O is no

longer an exclusive job for the expensive PLC.

Up to 200 I/O points can be specified with each 6K Controller.

Each DIN Rail-mounted I/O employs internal modular packaging so that specific functions can be

installed in single inline modules (SIMs). Each module mounts four SIMs of eight inputs or eight

outputs. Unused mounts enable low-cost expansion.

Multitasking

Applications requiring multiple independent control sequences on the same process to be

executed are easily accomplished with the 6K multitasking feature. In the case of a motion

controller, the tasks are motion programs that need to run simultaneously. In multitasking,

resources such as I/O, variables, memory and serial ports are shared between tasks. An

overriding program or supervisor is used to start operation, and any task may launch another task or program at any time. Multitasking also enables our customers to partition one controller into two separate controllers offering additional flexibility.

Enhanced Position Following

A feature found in previous Compumotor control products is Enhanced Position Following. Position-based following can solve applications such as packaging, bottle filling, web processing, continuous cut-to-length and flying knife with little or no inaccuracies. With the addition of new following features such as Virtual Master (the ability to track an internal count source when no external motion is present), Following Repetitive Cycle (making the task of extremely high-speed flying knife and web processing applications easier) and Web Registration (accurately following and tracking a specific web location), Compumotor now offers the most capable following controller on the market.

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Motion Planner™ Software

By integrating the latest in Windows 95/NT technology, Compumotor is offering the latest software platform for interfacing with the 6K Controller. Utilizing object-oriented wizards, a user can effortlessly set up a controller, program, check syntax, download and run programs and tune axes with minimal effort. The Motion Planner™ software ships free with every 6K Controller.

About Parker Compumotor

A division of Parker Hannifin Corporation's Automation Group since 1987, Rohnert Park-based Compumotor is a pioneer, developer and manufacturer of full-spectrum computer-based motion

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controllers and related drives and servo/step motor systems. These products automate the manufacturing of a significant fraction of the world's goods and services. Compumotor products are sold via independent authorized Automation Technology Centers—a group of nearly 100 professional, highly trained organizations with more than 135 points-of-presence throughout the world—or directly from Compumotor by logging on to buy.compumotor.com. Compumotor.com provides online catalogs, motion control tutorials, downloadable software, a product selection wizard and an FAQ database.

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