

New low cost controller extends flexibility for CMM users

Renishaw is adding to its UCC range of universal controllers for co-ordinate measuring machines (CMMs), the UCC*lite*™, a cost-effective controller for measurement applications requiring only touch-trigger probing capability. The new 3-axis controller supports manual CMMs as standard, with an option available for DCC machines, either with original purchase, or as a simple future configuration upgrade.

Despite its low price, the UCC*lite*™ CMM controller still benefits from many standard features present on Renishaw's higher specification controllers, including support for the new industry standard I++DME protocol which can allow companies to use their preferred measurement software, and Renishaw's UCC*assist*™ diagnostics software package.

For machine builders and retrofitters, the UCC*lite*™ CMM controller offers ease of installation through compatibility with a range of industry standard amplifier formats, and a simple PC connection via a USB link. As well as Renishaw's SPA family of digital servo power amplifiers, the new CMM controller also supports standard analogue servo power amplifiers with +/-10V velocity demand inputs. The SPA*lite*™ also supports both tacho and encoder velocity feedback systems, with inputs that conform to digital RS422 specification.

When used with Renishaw's new SPA*lite*™, a lower powered unit suited to smaller machines, the UCC*lite*™ requires no external 24V supply. Together, these two new units offer a highly cost-effective and compact CMM axis control solution, highly suitable for retrofitting to existing machines.

The UCC*lite*™ CMM controller has a built-in standard Renishaw software interface that supports conventional kinematic Renishaw touch-trigger probes, such as the TP20. Strain gauge probes such as the TP200

require a separate interface. There is also support for the PH10 motorised probe head when used with a PHC10 head controller. For the set-up of measurement programs requiring operator control, the UCC*lite*™ is fully compatible with Microsoft™ Direct X joysticks.



A major benefit of all new Renishaw UCC universal CMM controllers is compatibility with the revolutionary new industry standard I++DME protocol, via Renishaw's UCC*server*™ software. Developed to meet the demands of major users in the automotive industry, this new protocol will give cross-platform controller compatibility with all major measurement software packages. For CMM users especially, the ability to select their preferred software with their favoured machine platform is a huge advance in flexibility.

A further, no-cost option with all the new family of UCC universal CMM controllers, including UCC*lite*™, is Renishaw's UCC*assist*™ software package, which offers users a range of diagnostic tools, support for Renishaw's CMM performance analysis checking device (MCG), and automated error map collection.

Renishaw's new family of universal CMM controllers (UCC) and servo power amplifiers (SPA) provide cost-effective solutions to every measurement requirement, from basic touch-trigger probing on manually operated machines to a fully automated multi-axis CMM with advanced scanning capability. The result is a configurable package that delivers unrivalled levels of probing flexibility and increased throughput, without compromising metrology excellence.