
Press Release

Mecatronics forge ahead at Schneider Electric

Rueil Malmaison, 6 June 2006 - Neologism or barbarism, mecatronics are a reality for Schneider Electric. Speed control, starters and motion control are all part of mecatronics and are traditional sectors for Schneider Electric, particularly for the Telemecanique brand.

World leader in speed control since the creation of the joint-venture Schneider Toshiba Inverter (STI) in 2001, Schneider Electric is extending its Motion & Drives offering to satisfy new markets. The acquisition of Berger Lahr, European leader in step-by-step solutions, in 2000, should be noted, as well as the acquisition of Elau, technological leader in solutions for packaging machines, in May 2005.

In order to provide complete solutions both in industry and infrastructures and in the construction sector, Schneider Electric combined its speed and motion control activities into one entity in 2005, known as "Motion & Drives". With this structure, Schneider Electric aims to substantially reinforce its positions in this field.

2005 and 2006 saw the extensive renewal of services, particularly with the launch of Altivar 71, 61 and 21 variable speed drives.

Note that the Altivar 71 and 61 ranges reflect the move towards high power and, with the launch of Altivar 21, intended for 0.18 - 30 kW motors, Schneider Electric is moving into a sector little explored until now, HVAC (Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning).

For its Motion activities in 2006, Schneider Electric has reinforced the Lexium range with the launch of the Lexium 05 (low end of the range, 0.4 - 6 kW) and the Lexium15 (multi-functions, 0.9 - 42.5 kW).

The openness of these products to standard networks such as Ethernet, and CANopen, etc. allows for simplified integration in all control system architectures.

All new product families in the Motion & Drives activity are eco-designed and will satisfy the requirements of the RoHS in 2008, thus anticipating future regulations. This confirms the eco-responsible commitment of Schneider Electric in terms of sustainable development.

About Schneider Electric

World leader in the electrical distribution, automation and control systems thanks to its international brands Merlin Gerin, Square D and Telemecanique, Schneider Electric has developed a global range of products and services for the residential, construction, industrial, energy and infrastructure markets.

The 92,000 employees of Schneider Electric achieved sales of 11.7 thousand million Euros in 2005 via 13,000 sales outlets in 130 countries.

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Schneider Electric

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for everyone, everywhere, around the clock**



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