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Appy days

OPERATORS EXPECT THE SAME SIMPLE AND EFFICIENT USER EXPERIENCE FROM VEHICLE DISPLAY SYSTEMS AS THEY GET WITH A SMARTPHONE. SOFTWARE, AND APPS IN PARTICULAR, ARE NOW PLAYING A GREATER ROLE IN ACHIEVING THIS

▶ At ConExpo 2014, maximatecc will present the CCpilot VC display product platform. With its efficient ARM core, a powerful software platform and high-readability 5in display with optional touch screen, this new display product makes it possible to offer a premium user experience and enhanced operator support functions in a variety of cost-sensitive construction and agricultural vehicle applications.

The merger of CrossControl, a 220-employee company specialised in advanced control solutions for industrial vehicles, and Maxima Technologies, a 440-employee provider of instrumentation solutions, was completed in January 2013. The new company – known as maximatecc – offers a range of display and instrumentation solutions to OEMs globally. Now the strengths of CrossControl and Maxima are combined in a new line of displays – the CCpilot V-line.

Work the phone

Operators of most industrial vehicles are increasingly coming to expect the same user experience in their work equipment as they get with their smartphone or in their car. This is partly a question of generation, but the trend is definitely there and it will prompt off-highway equipment suppliers to react in order to keep their machines attractive.

The maximatecc response to this trend is to adapt the technologies commonly used in the smartphone and automotive markets into a product for the industrial vehicle domain. In the CCpilot V-line, Maxima Technologies' experience has been leveraged to realise instrumentation products for cost-sensitive equipment as well as the advanced computing and software competence of CrossControl.

As has been the case in the automotive industry, it is expected that in the industrial vehicle market most innovations will be in software, through soft products and apps that help improve the user experience, human-machine interaction, equipment use and lifetime profit. For advanced industrial machinery this is already the case, illustrated by developments in, for example, advanced forestry machines, tractors and mining equipment. What will follow is the same development in less advanced/costly equipment, requiring product suitable for those markets.

The CCpilot VC is based on a powerful and efficient ARM Cortex A8 core with Linux operating system.



ABOVE: CCpilot VC – a new display product from maximatecc with 5in TFT display and efficient ARM computing core

One can choose to run applications on the Linux system or use the LinX Software Suite, an open software application platform where applications are developed in Qt and CoDeSys. The LinX Software Suite features a range of ready-made software components, meaning that **sharp** user interfaces can be realised with a very limited spend of programming resources. As a complement, maximatecc offers software development services that can be deployed either on an advisory basis or for development of a complete system.

With its 5in TFT display with WVGA form factor and resolution, CCpilot VC offers high readability and enables design of **sharp** and user-friendly GUIs. The standard version uses eight configurable push buttons for user interaction. A touchscreen is optional and there is also the option to have push buttons and a touchscreen. The enclosure is designed for flush mounting in a panel/dashboard/armrest but it can also be fitted to a bracket.

The CCpilot VC features two CAN interfaces, supporting CANopen and SAE J1939. Besides managing information from two separate CAN networks, the unit can also be used as a gateway between these networks. Other serial interfaces are Ethernet and USB, used for loading software, connecting peripherals, etc. The analogue video input (PAL/NTSC) makes it possible to use the CCpilot VC as a video monitor.

The development of the CCpilot VC platform was initiated in 2012 and serial production of OEM versions was begun in December 2013 after successful field testing, certifying tests and pre-series production. Standard product variants will be released throughout 2014. **ivt**

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