

TIA's Net F/T Sensor System puts 6-Axis F/T measurement onto industrial networks

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TIA Robotic Tooling Solutions has just released ATI Industrial Automation's Net F/T Network Force/Torque Sensor System. ATI is the largest supplier of 6-axis force/torque sensors in the world, providing solutions ideal for robot end effectors and other automation or research applications. 6-axis force/torque sensors give robot arms a human-like sense of touch, allowing intricate and delicate applications not otherwise attainable. Sensor feedback allows the robot to maintain a constant contact force on workpieces even if they have irregular or unknown contours. Applications include seat testing or other controlled fatigue situations, robotic part insertion, constant force deburring, polishing, and grinding, force/torque feedback for manipulators in nuclear environments and physical rehabilitation research.

The new Net F/T Sensor System allows easy integration of robots using these sensors into industrial networks; it features both EtherNet/IP™ and CAN bus communications interfaces, with standard Ethernet compatibility. These interfaces obviate the need for any external data collection hardware and allow connection of multiple Net F/T systems to one network. Maximum flexibility is assured through the Net F/T system's availability with all of ATI's Force/Torque Transducer models. These include IP67 rated sensors for hygienic and wet applications.

The Net F/T system delivers the high speed vital to these realtime force control applications, with output rates to 7000 Hz for six axes of measurement over Ethernet using UDP. A web browser allows viewing and changing of system settings, making remote configuration and monitoring simple. An easily accessible Java™ demonstration application provides a graphical view of 6-axis measurements in real time. Programmable threshold monitoring of force and torque status through the browser allows immediate response to critical process conditions. LED indication of system status is also featured. Multiple transducer calibrations can be permanently stored and selected.

Editor's Note:

TIA Robotic Tooling Solutions supplies quality end effector and gripper solutions for robotics and automation systems sourced globally and supported locally out of its headquarters in Derby, UK. TIA's clients are from a range of market sectors including aerospace, automotive, medical, research and packaging and are typically systems integrators, OEMs, robot suppliers and research laboratories.

Products include magnetic, pneumatic and vacuum grippers, tool changers, high speed spindles, compliant robotic de-burring and de-flashing tools, centre of compliance tools, compliant end effectors and anti crash devices. Semi and fully custom tools are also available. The range has recently been extended with the Kahlman family of ergonomic lift assist products.

TIA also provides services complementary to its products, including tooling design support, installation, consultancy, service and training as well as tooling evaluation trials. The company has ISO9002 approval and is an active member of EIA, the Engineering Industries Association.

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