

Press Release

Source: Precise Automation, Inc.

Precise Automation introduces new linear axis option for the PreciseFlex Sample Handler for use in Life Science benchtop applications

San Jose, California – January 14, 2013 - Precise Automation has introduced a new linear axis on which the PreciseFlex (PF) Sample Handler can be mounted. This linear axis module allows the PF to access a greater working volume than previously possible while still maintaining the advanced features of the sample handler. Since the linear axis is designed specifically for use with the PF, it is extremely easy to integrate and coordinate with PreciseFlex Sample Handlers of any size and configuration. The linear axis is available in 1M, 1.5M, and 2M lengths.

The PF Sample Handler features a four-axis SCARA configuration with a servo gripper and is ideal for automating Life Science benchtop processes where price, ease-of-use, space requirements and safety are critical. Typical applications include handling, loading and managing plates, test tubes and microscope slides.

The new linear axis carries forward all of the features customers expect from the PF product line such as: low-cost, quiet operation from servo motors; and embedded motion controller, harnesses and power supplies within the mechanical structure to eliminate extra enclosures and simplify installation. The new linear axis and the PF also include safety features that disable motor power when a minimal, unexpected force is encountered, thus allowing them to operate without safety shields in benchtop applications. Combined with absolute encoder motors in both the linear axis and the PF, which do not require any motion to home during start-up, these safety features greatly reduce the risk of injuring people or damaging equipment during operation. The PreciseFlex's space saving design and unique geometry allows it to service many stations along the linear axis' length of travel while still permitting workcells to be extremely compact.

All Precise Automation mechanisms feature the powerful embedded Guidance Vision-Guided Motion Controller. This controller offers unique free mode teaching aids and excellent capabilities for automatically generating elegant and reliable motion sequences. Its features permit the mechanism's gripper to move along smooth, straight line paths or arbitrarily complex motion sequences by simply moving the sample handler and linear axis by hand to start and end positions and letting the controller handle the rest. Combined with a simple, yet powerful programming language, Ethernet interface (featuring PC control via an open source TCP/IP Command Server), kinematics for Cartesian motions and quiet, high performance servo motors, the PF and linear axis simplifies programming and reduces cycle times with the most efficient motions possible.

Brian Powell, Vice President of Sales and Operations, states, "The linear rail option for the PF Sample Handler greatly increases the flexibility and versatility of the PF without sacrificing any of its unique features. This option allows the sample handler to service a wide variety of inline equipment making it ideal for an even wider array of applications and processes."

ABOUT PRECISE AUTOMATION INC.

Precise Automation delivers cutting edge automation technology and leverages years of experience in software, controls, electronic and mechanical design that assists end users and OEM customers to *automate with ease*. Precise's versatile table-top robots and sample handlers come fully assembled and are extremely easy to set up. Our low-cost vision-guided motion controllers integrate motor drives in a very compact design that fit inside many mechanisms' structures. The controller's powerful features allow OEM's to create the applications they want and to produce user-friendly systems. Adding vision guidance simplifies complex problems in locating and identifying parts and significantly improves process reliability by easily accommodating to dimensional variances. Precise Automation's flexible and innovative products

serve a wide variety of industries including: electronics, semiconductor, life science, medical products and mass storage.

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