

Amtech moves back to its engraving roots

Since it was founded back in 1989 as a PC industrial system integrator, Amtech (Automated Micro Technology) Ltd has grown into one of the UK's leading motion control system suppliers.

Amtech decided to develop its own range of control systems after being disappointed with the products around at the time. This was primarily targeted at the welding industry, which required a high level of protection from electrical noise, which gave it a good grounding for its industrial applications.

After successfully supplying controls to a wide range of industrial applications from automatic welding systems, mattress stitching machines to cutting intricate shapes for a luxury vinyl flooring company.

The company's reputation as a reliable bespoke motion control system builder steadily grew, resulting in the development of a motion control software system: GNC System 16. This completely flexible software gave customers an easy-to-use and configurable motion control system to suit their exact needs.

What about the pedigree of Amtech in the engraving market, the founder owner of Amtech, Stewart Scott was involved in the development of one of the first CNC engraving machines for Newing Hall in the early 1980's. With this control being used on the Pantocut PNC, he also worked on later controls used on the Pantocut PNC 4E machines and the early Millgrav machines.

In the late 90's Amtech were commissioned by Suregrave to produce an engraving controller for both its DSC controller and Wizzard machines. The DSC is still one of the most reliable engraving controllers Suregrave have sold to date.

Amtech have recently moved back into the engraving market place offering replacement control systems for the Newing Hall Pantocut machine and Millgrav, as well as the Suregrave, Dalhgran, DSC and Hi-drive controllers. They have also recently completed the upgrade of a Vision control system. With Amtech's flexible control system they believe they can produce control systems for

most, if not all of the engraving and routing machines produced.

Amtech motion control card is based on a 32 bit RISC processor and can offer upto 12 axes of motion control the most complex controller Amtech have produced to date. They can offer closed loop servo control and open loop stepper control on the same card. The card gives a smooth continuous path motion and combine this with micro stepping drives reduces resonance and vibration. This all helps to save wear and tear on the machine and improves the quality of the engraving.

Amtech recently visited an engraving company who were after an upgrade of their Pantocut machine. The main criteria for the upgrade was that the Pantocut would run on the same software as the majority of their other engraving machines, which was Surelab. Amtech were able to produce a CAM interface for Surelab on their control system. Amtech will in most cases create custom CAM interfaces at no extra cost. The control system as standard can read DXF and HPGL files adding the third axes movement automatically if required. They also can interface to EngraveLab, ArtCam, Corel Draw SignLab, SureLab, Vcarve and Aspire.

Amtech say their method of control can also save customers money on expensive CAD software. If you have a control system which needs to be connected to say EngraveLab in order to drip feed the program to the controller then each engraving machine will require a copy of EngraveLab. With Amtech's control system you create the program on EngraveLab then transfer the program from the design computer to the control system using a network in a matter of seconds, freeing the design computer to design the next job and transfer it to another engraving machine. Saving the customer both time and money. Programs can also be saved in the Amtech control software, so if the same job is required again this can be selected at the control system, no need to go back into the design software saving the operator more time.

If cost is an issue when upgrading your control system Amtech are happy to look at the individual items in your original control system and use as many of those parts in

the replacement control system. Items such as power supplies, motor drives, spindle drives and even the enclosure. This will save you money and is better for the environment.

For more information about the Amtech's range of control products, visit www.amtechltd.co.uk or email sales@amtechltd.co.uk.

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