

<b>Product Information Bulletin</b>		<b>PIB: CS2006-014</b>
		<b>Date: October 11, 2006</b>
<b>PRODUCTS AFFECTED: S2X and Susmic microcontrollers</b>	<b>SUBJECT: Obsolescence of Electronic Components</b>	
<b>MODELS AFFECTED: S2X, S10, S12, S16, S1X-1x and S1X-2x and the MCE112</b>		

<b>Component</b>	<b>See attachment for part numbers and customers.</b>
<b>Action.</b>	<b>Notify customers of the pending obsolescence of these controller models and advise them to place last time purchases if they wish to do so.</b>
<b>Date of action</b>	<b>We will need responses from customers by December 1, 2006</b>

The semiconductors at the heart of our S2X, Susmic, and a few other older ME products are being obsoleted by our supplier. In December, Mobile Electronics operations will be placing a last-time buy of these parts. We will be able to continue production for several months, after which time we will discontinue the production of these products.

The S2X Series of machine microcontrollers began shipping in 1998. Its shipment volumes appear to have reached their peak of 2,751 units in 2002. Their quantities have fallen to 1,521 in 2005.

Attached are sales records going back to 1996 for all affected products. Please sort for your customers and notify them of their opportunity to make a last time purchase, or make other plans to service any machines built with these products. Please note that Tab 2 of this attached spread sheet is the listing of TSD sales. If you have questions about how to handle those, please contact Andres Caballero at extension 2011.

Options for our customers are as follows:

**#1 Order enough to meet forecasted service requirements**

If your customer usage has been for service, the best idea may be to have them estimate the number of controllers they feel they will need for a comfortable service period. As time goes on, other parts on these controllers will also become obsolete, thus increasing the likelihood that we will not be able to repair them.

**#2 Switch to an MC300**

The MC300 is a mechanically and electrically compatible migration path. The MC300 has the same housing, the same connector, and the same input and output configurations. A customer could choose to have his application ported to run on an MC300. The complexity of this is dependent upon a few factors. ME START will supply proposals as requested. These conversions could cost between \$5K and \$50K. An additional consideration is that the MC300 is in the “not recommended for new designs” stage of its product life.

**#3 Switch to PLUS+1**

Depending upon your customers’ circumstances, the best option may be to migrate the application to PLUS+1. PLUS+1 controllers low cost and will be supported for many years to come. For service/retrofit applications, not only would the software have to be rewritten but an adaptor wiring harness would have to be made, and mounting would have to be considered. This is clearly not as simple as either of the two above options.

For current production machines, PLUS+1 is likely the best path forward. The Plus+1 product family will continue to expand for the foreseeable future, and with their application in GUIDE, customers will be able to take control of their own software should they desire.