

THE MONTHLY

- GLOBAL EDITION -



Flexible synchronization of printers and systems with the Microplex GPIO interface

In modern production or packaging lines all the connected devices are controlled and synchronized via signals. This ensures a smooth process and allows a quick and targeted response when the situation requires it. Many of these devices are printers, both thermal and laser which need to be triggered by either the PLC or a sensor on the line.

Microplex printers can be connected directly to the PLC or sensor utilising a GPIO (General Purpose Input / Output) interface that is embedded in the printer.

Therefore the Microplex printer can interface seamlessly with packaging machines, inserting machines, picking systems or applicators.



Microplex printers are the better solution.

The Microplex SPS-control (GPIO) option for plant engineering.

The hardware interface consists of an additional electronic board (adapter board), which provides eight input/output channels and four status channels of the printer.

The inputs and outputs of the Microplex SPS-Control (GPIO Board) can be for example connected to post processing machines. Such machines are often equipped with a Programmable Logic Controller (PLC), in German called SPS (such as ABB AC500, Beckhoff IP67, Schneider Electric Modicon, Siemens Simatic S7, ... to name but a few). The electrical signals are optimized for such SPS systems.

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With the PLC or SPS-Control (GPIO Board) Microplex printers are able to synchronize their internal print data processing to external signals: they can wait until other machines are ready and they are able to control post processing machines, too.

By directly communicating the printer with hosts, mainframes, and other control systems, the GPIO interface of the printer can be manipulated through special commands (cio). The computer can use these commands in the printer data stream e.g. to set outputs to a defined level, poll inputs or wait for confirmation of the printer before proceeding to program execution. It also allows process controls to be synchronized at the level of the computing system that generates the print data.

For every print job **a real handshake between printer and post processing** can be **realized**.

If the wide range of configuration options is not sufficient, we will customise our solutions to the needs of the customer in cooperation with plant engineers and system integrators. Thus, individual adaptations can be realised through optional functional extensions.

Detailed information can be found on our website under [Interfaces](#) and [Production Solutions](#).

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