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Schleicher GRED®: a new and unique type of software for retain data

Schleicher GRED® software from the Berlin electronics company Schleicher Electronic reduces the costs and memory requirements of so-called retain data, which holds a key function in automation solutions, for example. The advantage of Schleicher GRED® is that the saved data needs less memory capacity, which in turn leads to a reduction in costs. Schleicher GRED® is particularly suitable for embedded systems, which have to process large quantities of data in real time, such as in production or logistics.

The following applies for many applications: data, such as state values, positions, inputs or counter values, has to be saved when the machine is switched off, so that it can be used when switched on again. Until now, this so-called retain data was organised through its own hardware components, so-called NV-RAM modules, which are already integrated in industrial PCs in the form of a small chip. The problem is that NV-RAM modules are not available in all capacities and are too small for many applications – such as embedded systems, which have to process large quantities of data in real time. In addition, depending on the necessary storage capacity, they are very cost intensive.

Enter Schleicher GRED® (pronounced *gee-red*). Schleicher now has a patent pending on a procedure that reduces large quantities of data for small memory media, and thus represents an economical alternative to standard solutions: the software now only saves changes to data, so that just a small NV-RAM is required for the saving process. In this, Schleicher GRED® accesses all three storage media – NV-RAM, hard disk memory and RAM. The advantage is that there is no impairment in system behaviour. The hard disk is not over-stressed, and neither are real-time processes blocked. In addition, Schleicher GRED® runs in the background – without impairing the application.

For the first time, Schleicher GRED® has been implemented in the XCI600 Schleicher system control. The solution is not dependent on the target application or industry, and can be implemented individually in any customer application. The only precondition is that the system must have a NV-RAM.

About Schleicher Electronic

Schleicher Electronic GmbH is a leading provider of automation solutions and the only medium-sized company owning a proprietary NC kernel for use in the manufacture of machines and plants. Since its foundation in 1937, Schleicher has been standing for quality, innovation and experience: What began in 1958 with the invention of the time relay was perpetuated with the development in 1985 of the autonomous NC kernel and with the company's own programming and production of customized control systems. This company's longstanding tradition in innovation has its origin in Berlin, a major worldwide science hub; Cooperative projects with internationally renowned research institutes ensure constant inspiration for new developments, giving Schleicher Electronic that decisive edge in the area of complex, high performance industrial applications. The company's four core competencies include high-performance control systems, relays, electronic engineering services (EES) and electronic manufacturing services (EMS). Featuring roughly 90 employees, Schleicher Electronic does its manufacturing exclusively in Berlin. Schleicher solutions are in use worldwide. Amongst many others the customer base proudly includes Siemens AG, BMW AG and Sick AG.

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