NEW AND OF NOTE IN MACHINE AUTOMATION

CONTROL DESIGN [UPDATE]





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Article Highlights

How to Build a Skilled Workforce

Manufacturing is the key driver to U.S. economic prosperity, according to Rob Atkinson, president of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF). But will manufacturing be the savior for the U.S. job market? No, says Bill Strauss, senior economist and economic advisor for the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Atkinson and Strauss both gave keynote presentations at Manufacturing Perspectives, a forum for the industrial press corps at Rockwell's Automation Fair in November. Although Atkinson and Strauss were at odds on a few key points (Atkinson, for example, thinks "economists are ruining thinking"), they agreed that there is a serious lack of talent available to fill vacancies within the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) sector. Read more »

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MTS releases the newly redesigned E-Series, which lets you add the benefits of magnetostrictive linear position sensing at an affordable price. The new E-Series Model EH features a compact, IP69K protective housing for the reliability you need. Learn more.

Thermal Mainstay Learns New Tricks

Despite the relative infancy of the solar photovoltaics industry, it's not uncommon to find it populated with old-timers as well. Despatch Industries, headquartered in Minneapolis, will celebrate 110 years in business this year. It is applying its long history in thermal processing to solar PV manufacturing. The machinery used to manufacture solar cells and panels is under pressure to drive down costs as low as possible. Despatch makes highly efficient thermal processing equipment for advanced PV production, including the CF Series metallization firing furnace. Read more »

What's an I/O Device?

When it comes to the computing world, a keyboard or a mouse could be an input device for a computer, where those input signals are processed, and monitors and printers are the output devices. However, as you well know, machine builders and discrete manufacturers have many more complex and sophisticated control signals to deal with. There also are many more options regarding the type of I/O technology and devices to choose from depending on the users' needs. Read more »

