



IIoT and Industry 4.0 are within easy reach thanks to simple solutions from RS Components

Virtually any industrial application can be easily connected to the wider enterprise with the right products and support

Johannesburg, South Africa, 4 October 2016 - [RS Components](#) (RS), the trading brand of [Electrocomponents plc](#) (LSE:ECM), the global distributor for engineers, offers multiple solutions to help engineers exploit the numerous benefits of a smart, connected-factory approach.

By leveraging the capabilities underpinning the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) and Industry 4.0 – two global megatrends that are revolutionising the industry – users will be able to capture, collate, decipher and disburse vital, real-time manufacturing data, enabling them to make faster, better informed and immediately actionable business decisions.

The key to this new data paradigm is giving products, machines, cells and lines the ability to communicate harmonised manufacturing and process data to the wider enterprise as quickly and efficiently as possible. This communication can be by any number of different means – Near Field Communication (NFC), Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), Modbus, Ethernet, etc. – all that is required is the means to collate and connect.

A [new landing page published on the RS website](#) shows how users can easily create a connected architecture, even when working with commodity or “dumb” products. The page details products and solutions that can read information from existing control systems, harmonise the communication protocols and make this information available to a wider network. In some cases the solutions can even make the communication between machines or systems more secure.

Among the many products RS offers, for connected solutions is a [new NFC timing relay from Schneider Electric](#), which offers control and monitoring of a timing relay via NFC using a smartphone or tablet. At the controller level there is also a range of Modbus-capable [mini PLCs from BARTH](#), which can turn simple machines and cells into fully connected manufacturing nodes. Higher up the control spectrum, [MICA modular industrial computers from HARTING](#) offer open-source programming so users can develop integrated industry projects quickly, with minimal expense and disruption. These three solutions are just a small part of a myriad products and services that RS offers for wider connection capabilities.

To help with product selection and to learn more about the IIoT and Industry 4.0, the RS DesignSpark repository is a goldmine of helpful information and advice, capturing the [latest IIoT news, solutions and products](#). This added-value service offers software, 3D models, articles, tools and forum discussions relating to many of the products, services and capabilities in the extensive RS range.

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About RS Components

RS Components is the market leader in the high service level distribution of electrical, electronic, mechanical, tools and industrial products. Operating in 26 countries whilst serving a further 100 through third-party distributors, RS serves every sector of industry in the procurement of their products relating to maintenance, repair, operations, low volume production, research and development.

With over 500 000 products across 2500 leading brands, the company is committed to ensuring that their 1,5 million customers have fast access to a broad, as well as deep range, of products and technologies, all under one roof.

RS's customers, whether ordering single or multiple items, experience a quick, easy, secure, painless and cost effective process. The RS catalogue, available at za.rs-online.com, offers full colour pictures with extensive clear product specifications. Free access to thousands of datasheets ensures the correct product choice. Order placement is easily facilitated through za.rs-online.com, the call centre, e-mail, fax and trade counter. Locally held stock is delivered to customers within 24 hours, and products held internationally, within four to six working days.

It is proven that departments traditionally spend 80% of their time sourcing products that account for only 20% of their total procurement spend. RS is focussed on reducing

the customers “total cost of product ownership” by reducing the need to make multiple calls to various companies to source products, reducing supplier related administration and allowing for the amalgamation as well as consolidation of supplier bases. Through this process, procurement efficiency is improved and time is freed up to concentrate on the more important business decisions.

For more information, please visit the website at za.rs-online.com

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