This bulletin announces the release of the new System Controller hardware and software (SYSCON 2) for the Maxum edition II gas chromatograph, Maxum Network Access Unit and Advance Plus GC. This bulletin provides product information for Siemens sales personnel and customers. The new board is scheduled for release for sale in September 2009 for end users in North America and in July 2010 for end users in all other global regions.

**Description**

The Maxum Gas Chromatograph (GC) uses powerful electronics to implement hardware control and data processing. The primary electronic component that is responsible for most intelligent functions is the System Controller board. In the original product release of Advance Maxum, this board was referred to as SYSCON. Later, the board was extensively updated and was released as SYSCON+. Now, the board has again been fully updated and enhanced. The new board is referred to as SYSCON 2.

In all cases, this board is identical whether used in the original Advance Maxum GC, the current Maxum edition II, the Maxum Network Access Unit (NAU) or the Advance Plus GC Upgrade. In this bulletin, the use of the name “Maxum” refers to any of these products. The System Controller is mounted in a cage inside the electronics enclosure of the Maxum GC. Previous versions of the System Controller (SYSCON and SYSCON+) were a single electronic circuit board. The new version, SYSCON 2, is made of three separate circuit boards. Two of these connect directly together in a mother-daughter arrangement. The smaller of these two boards, the Communication Analytical Controller (CAC), contains the core micro-processor, memory and communication components. The larger board is the System Interface Board (SIB) which contains electronics that provide physical interface to the other GC components. A third new board which is a new Ethernet switch (ESB) is also provided as part of the SYSCON 2. The three boards are available separately as spare parts for repair purposes; however, the complete assembly is always required together to provide analyzer control functions for Maxum.

**Product features**

The SYSCON 2 is released as part of Siemens on-going commitment to the Maxum GC platform. It fully updates all electronic components and system software. This ensures that Maxum can continue to be manufactured and supported for many years into the future. In addition, the SYSCON 2 adds new hardware support which will enable the addition of new functions that will further enhance the value of Maxum in the future.

As released now, the product has the following characteristics:

1. SYSCON 2 is a direct replacement in all regards for all previous versions of System Controller. The previous versions will be discontinued after release of SYSCON 2 is complete. System pricing is not affected by the new Controller.
2. SYSCON 2 will be provided automatically in all new chromatographs quoted, sold and shipped by Siemens. Chromatographs quoted to end-
Software

The SYSCON 2 uses a new operating system to support its capabilities. This new software is directly compatible with all Maxum hardware. Maxums, NAUs and Advance Plus GCs with the new controller can operate in any Maxum system without any requirement to change or update previously existing units.

To support the new SYSCON 2, a new version of Maxum Workstation software is being released concurrently. The new software, Maxum Workstation Version 5.0, allows users to configure and operate Maxums that have SYSCON 2 from any point on the Maxum network. Version 5.0 also is fully functionality with all older Maxums on the same network whether those products are updated or not.

The new software version is installed in the Maxum Workstation only. It is required to provide human interface to units with SYSCON 2. The software is being provided at no charge to all current users of Maxum who have Workstation Version 4.2 or later. Users who have earlier versions may upgrade their software at low cost by the Siemens software license maintenance program.

Sales information

For further information, feel free to contact your nearest Siemens process analytics sales office, world wide.

Siemens Industry, Inc.
7101 Hollister Road
Houston, TX 77040
Phone: 713-939-7400
www.usa.siemens.com/processanalytics

Future Functionality

In addition to the features of the board which are provided now, the SYSCON 2 also provides hardware which allows for future enhancements to the Maxum system. This hardware includes: support for all new, low cost discrete analog and digital I/O hardware; support for additional serial ports to connect to outside devices via RS-232 and RS-485 such as Modbus computers and printers; support for connection of USB devices; and more. This hardware will be implemented in the future by simple update of software on the SYSCON 2. Details, functions and pricing for software enhancements will be announced later.