



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

Machine Parts Fabricator Chooses Control Serial Port Expansion Cards for Easy Upgrade to CNC/DNC Application

Marsh Screw, a machine shop in Green Valley, Mo., has grown steadily since it was founded 22 years ago. Today, it averages 30 jobs per week—jobs that have become increasingly more sophisticated.

“To keep up with demand, we needed to add control units to our production line and upgrade our original RocketPort ISA 4-port serial expansion card,” said owner Andy Marsh. “The ability to control our production units from a central location would save me the time and trouble of having to walk a couple of hundred feet from the office to the shop to load disks containing each program on the control PCs. Those trips can add up, especially if a program needs editing, which is really frustrating. And if I dropped that disk on an oily floor, I’d have to go back for another copy. The smoke, dust and oil that are all over a machine shop are a computer’s enemy.”



There was only one potential fly in the ointment: Updating technology typically requires reconfiguring existing software. That means additional costs for a technician, plus additional time for the transition. But all that was avoided, thanks to Control’s RocketPort uPCI 8-port serial expansion card. Marsh explained, “Speed was our number one priority. We had to have this done with little to no disruption of production, and we knew from our original RocketPort installation a few years ago that we could avoid major downtime with RocketPort.”

Implementation like Clockwork

Marsh Screw replaced three older PC units from the control set with a new Dell Core2 Duo system that runs Windows XP Pro SP3 and houses a Control RocketPort uPCI 8-port DB9 and associated octacable assembly.

The installation, application, and data file transfer to the new system went like clockwork, according to Marsh. “It was incredible that the software setup and configuration was done in less than 30 minutes, and we had literally just a few minutes of downtime,” he said. “And during the first 30 days, when production glitches are likely to occur, we didn’t have a single hiccup. Not that we were too surprised. We’d expect no less from RocketPort.”

Greater Efficiency Means “Life is Good.”

The upgrade has made the process pretty slick for Marsh. “Programs flow back and forth from the new system to the control PCs through the RocketPort,” he said. “The control PCs have an eight-program capacity. When a control PC is full, I simply drag a program from the control PC icon on my screen to my system icon to make room for a new job. It takes seconds, not a time-consuming trip to the shop.”

Marsh estimates that the shop is four times more efficient than other shops his size. “We’re a small, three-person operation, pumping out about 30 jobs each week. From the online research I’ve done, that makes us way ahead of our industry. Life is good.”

Continued on back

AT A GLANCE

CUSTOMER

Marsh Screw Machine Products,
Grain Valley, Mo.

CHALLENGE

Create a CNC/DNC application with a cost-effective technology upgrade that limits downtime.

SOLUTION

RocketPort uPCI 8-port serial port expansion card automates software update with no downtime or software reconfiguration expense.

BENEFITS

- Consolidated control system eliminates time-consuming programming of PC control units and speeds time to production.
- Centralized programming pushes across the LAN through RocketPort to remote control units.
- Reducing the number of older control systems reduces potential maintenance costs.
- Hardware is installed and validated within 30 minutes.
- Proven reliability and expert technical support eliminate downtime risk.

RocketPort® uPCI 8-Port Multiport Serial Card

Highlights

- RoHS Directive 2002/95/EC compliant
- Universal PCI design supporting 3.3 and 5.0 Volt PCI bus architectures - ensures compatibility with all current PCI bus architectures
- I/O mapping capabilities - simplifies installation, eliminates memory conflicts, and enables plug-and-play compatibility
- RS-232, RS-422, and surge protected DB25 interfaces available - delivers more options and enhanced compatibility
- Half-height design - allows installation in standard or low-profile servers
- On-board dedicated 36MHz RISC processor - minimizes "host" CPU utilization
- RS-232 or RS-422 communications support - enables transmit-and-receive speeds up to 460 Kbps
- Transmit buffers 16 times larger, and receive buffers 64 times larger than a 16550 UART - helps ensure smooth, efficient data transfer
- Robust driver support - enables card to work seamlessly with popular operating systems



ORDERING INFORMATION

99365-0 RocketPort uPCI 8-Port

PRODUCT SUPPORT & SERVICE INFORMATION

Warranty Information

Control offers a 30-day satisfaction guarantee and 5-year limited warranty.

Sales Support

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Technical Support

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