

PL/X DC MOTOR DRIVE

FIELDBUS software and hardware redesign

Sprint Electric has been using HMS Anybus Embedded Hardware for many years to integrate different FIELDBUS protocols within the PL/X range of controllers.

We have been using HMS Anybus-S (now "Mature"), but it has become increasingly difficult to purchase. Lead times are increasing, and costs have gone up considerably.

To reduce these issues, we have redesigned our software and hardware to incorporate the new HMS version of Anybus Embedded Hardware called "CompactCom".

This change will future-proof the capabilities of the PL/X and its communications protocols.

As you can appreciate, this upgrade has created a significant change:

- A new FIELDBUS mounting card supports the new HMS CompactCom, which is physically different.
- An updated version of PLX software (V6.42) means the previous HMS Anybus-S hardware cannot be used.

Going forward

Overall, the cost of using the newer HMS Anybus CompactCom card will be similar to that of the older card: the FIELDBUS mounting cards are a higher price, but the CompactCom modules are a lower price.

The PL/X software will change from V6.13 to V6.42 and will be installed as standard on all factory-supplied PL/X drives.

To upgrade existing drives in the field, use a PICKit 3 or PICKit 4 programming tool preloaded with V6.42 (or later) software. Alternatively, we can supply a replacement control board using V6.42 (or later) software.

The latest V6.42 software has been designed with a boot loader to enable updating in the field using the drive serial port, a suitable computer, and a software update tool/hex file provided by Sprint Electric.

Older hardware

LA103690 FIELDBUS Mounting Board: for use with the old HMS Anybus S range - the PL/X requires V6.13 software.

Newer hardware

LA105511 FIELDBUS Mounting Board: for use with the new HMS Anybus CompactCom range - the PL/X requires V6.42 (or later) software.

The change from V6.13 to V6.42 software is transparent to the user in terms of features/functions, etc.