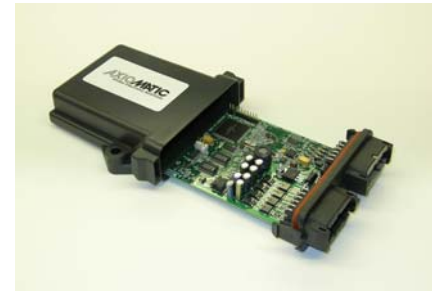


PRESS RELEASE

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Axiomatic has developed a unique fan controller together with Flexxaire Manufacturing Inc. for variable pitch fan systems. Flexxaire's compact design includes a variable pitch fan, valve and controller and is an alternative to variable speed hydraulic fan drive systems. The controller and fan system are designed for harsh operating environments and are used in applications where efficiency, noise reduction and clean radiators are important. These applications include construction, forestry, agriculture, mining, recycling and waste handling equipment.



Fan controller

The main task of the controller is to control the pitch of the fan blades using either pneumatics or hydraulics. Changing the pitch of the fan regulates the airflow so that the temperature(s) of the machine (e.g. an engine) can be maintained at a specified optimal operating point(s). The controller also automatically blows debris off the machine using a timed purge cycle or at the push of a button. Reversing airflow can occur in less than 1 second. The design of the Flexxaire fan blade produces high performance in reverse pitch.

Multiple temperature inputs can be configured for temperature regulation via the controller. For pneumatic fans, an additional pressure sensor signal is used, which is fed to the controller as an analog input. An innovative nonlinear control strategy is employed in the closed-loop temperature regulation. The controller is fully J1939 network enabled so that temperature or any other input data can be obtained off the CAN network. This reduces requirements for installing temperature sensors directly to the controller. Flexxaire's fan has four different normal operating modes: temperature control, purge, force neutral, and force full. Normally, the fan works in the temperature control mode. Purging occurs either automatically at a preset interval or "manually" triggered through one or a group of configured inputs to the controller. The two forced modes are also activated by pre-configured groups of analog and/or digital inputs to the controller. The controller is fully configurable through a serial RS-232 interface with a PC.

The Flexxaire variable pitch fan system blows only as much air as is required resulting in fuel savings and horsepower savings as high as 70-80% when in neutral pitch. Conventional cooling packages are designed for peak horsepower output on the hottest day of the year. The rest of the time, the demand for cooling is less. Horsepower increases with the cube of airflow, so the savings in airflow with a variable pitch fan system can cut horsepower in half during the hot summer months and even more in the colder months. With horsepower freed up, you get fuel savings or the machine has horsepower available for increased productivity. Moving air generates the majority of sound coming from a fan system. So, the fan system produces less noise by reducing the pitch of its blades. In neutral pitch, the fan is so quiet it cannot normally be heard over the sound of the engine. The Flexxaire fan system offers a drive efficiency of between 95-98%. A typical hydraulic fan drive system offers 80-85% efficiency resulting in more cooling demand for the machine. Other than an oil change at 6,000 hours, Flexxaire's fan drive systems are virtually maintenance free for the life of the engine.



The Axiomatic fan controller alters the pitch of Flexxaire fans.

Axiomatic operates in Ontario, Canada and Tampere, Finland. Our mission is to provide advanced electronic controls for mobile, marine, mining, military and industrial equipment OEM's.

Flexxaire is based in Alberta, Canada and has been providing innovative cooling solutions for the heavy equipment industry since 1989.

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