

Gentle and reliable wafer handling

Festo Motion Terminal enables positioning using pneumatics

The Festo Motion Terminal VTEM combines digitalisation and pneumatics. Quickly activated Motion Apps are revolutionising pneumatics by increasing flexibility and energy efficiency, and accelerating production processes. This also benefits electronics manufacturing, as demonstrated by the use of the automation platform VTEM in wafer handling.

The Festo Motion Terminal VTEM is moving pneumatics into the age of Industry 4.0. With apps that can replace over 50 individual components. Just as the smartphone turned the mobile communication market on its head over a decade ago, so too is the Festo Motion Terminal set to revolutionise automation technology. This new type of function integration – combined with software – simplifies the entire value chain, since only one piece of hardware is now required.

This means that users can execute different tasks with just one valve and operate 16 pressure regulation channels with eight valves. This significantly reduces the amount of work required, from engineering to format change-overs. This is why experts are calling the Festo Motion Terminal VTEM a revolution in automation technology.

Two Motion Apps for gentle and precise movements

In an application from the electronics industry, a handling system for wafers with Z- and X-axes uses a compact cylinder AEN and a linear actuator DGC from Festo. They transport the wafers gently and reliably thanks to the two Motion Apps “Positioning” and “Proportional pressure regulation”.

The Motion App “Proportional pressure regulation” controls the advance movement of the actuator and regulates the vacuum used to grip the wafers. The Motion App “Positioning” moves the axis quickly and with minimal vibration to the next belt using full stroke measurement. It is now also possible to realise intermediate positions using this app. If the focus is on longer cylinder strokes and movement without intermediate positions, the Motion App “Soft Stop” with partial stroke measurement is ideal.

Positioning using pneumatics

With the Motion App “Positioning”, pneumatic actuators can be freely positioned along the entire working stroke and the cylinder movement can be controlled using limit values for the speed, acceleration and jerk parameters. Dynamic setpoints for position and maximum speed thus enable positioning tasks to be highly customised. The application ensures the correct

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motion speed and low impact energy in point-to-point movements while cycle times can be reduced with pre-positioning.

Pressure and vacuum control

Using the Motion App “Proportional pressure regulation”, both valve channels can now be regulated independently of each other. The first working channel moves a single-acting cylinder AEN in the Z direction using pressure regulation, while the second working channel gently places the wafer down using precisely metered vacuum regulation. The integrated system approach combines the fieldbus communication for all functions into one fieldbus device. This enables both cost and space savings.

Software instead of hardware

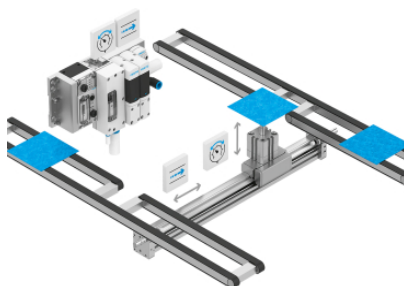
Thanks to the fast activation of new functions via Motion Apps, machine developers can create a basic machine type using the Festo Motion Terminal and then select the relevant Motion Apps to equip it with different functions and features as per the customer requirements. The ability to copy and transfer parameter sets makes planning easier and saves time. Assigning functions via software has the added benefit of preventing tampering and protecting know-how, since it's not possible to tell from the outside which functions the valves are executing.

Maintenance is also simplified, as leaks are automatically monitored and long lists of spare and wearing parts are a thing of the past. Using the Motion App “Leakage diagnostics”, malfunctions can be detected and pinpointed to a specific actuator via diagnostic cycles and defined threshold values. This enables predictive maintenance.

New: Demo licence for other Motion Apps

Anyone choosing to purchase a Festo Motion Terminal at the moment will also receive a 30-day demo licence free of charge. This can be used to try out additional Motion Apps from “Directional control valve functions” to “ECO drive”.

Press Images



VTEM Wafer handling

Gentle and reliable handling of wafers: the Festo Motion Terminal positions using pneumatics.



Festo Motion Terminal VTEM 1

Game changer in automation: the Festo Motion Terminal. Thanks to fast activation of new functions via apps, machine developers can create a basic machine type and then, depending on which apps are selected, equip it with different functions ...