LeCroy debuts more responsive scopes and abler probes

LeCroy Corp. has started off the new year with its 93xxC family of 200- and 400-MHz oscilloscopes, both of which are faster (in the sense of more responsive) and less expensive than their 93xx predecessors. Accompanying the new instruments is a new series of probes, including current, high-voltage, and differential units.

A faster microprocessor and a larger main memory explain the oscilloscopes’ enhanced responsiveness. Instead of a 16-MHz 68020, the C instruments are built around 32-MHz 68030s; and instead of 2MB of RAM, they have 4, 8, or 16MB, depending on whether their acquisition memory length is 50 kB, 200 kB, or 1 MB, respectively. The result is faster response to the front-panel controls, faster computation of waveform parameters and other mathematical calculations, and more power to zoom waveforms for detailed examination.

In addition, the scopes also boast faster RS-232 serial data ports (115.2 kb/s, up from 19.2 kb/s) and new IEEE-488 chips, which hold out the possibility of faster data transfer over the general-purpose interface bus in the future.

Prices of the new scopes range from US $4990 for the 9310C, which is a two-channel instrument with 50 kB of acquisition memory per channel, to $10990 for the 9314CL, which has 1 MB of high-speed acquisition memory behind each of its four channels. All of the scopes have a sampling rate of 100 megasamples per second and input bandwidths of either 200 MHz or 400 MHz. All of them include a floppy-disk drive as standard equipment.

Among the new probes are the Model AP015 current probe, which spans dc–50 MHz and can measure currents as high as 50 A. It sells for $1500 and should prove quite useful.
to designers of high-frequency power devices like switching power supplies and pulse-width-modulation amplifiers.

Complementing the current probe is a series of five high-voltage probes with maximum ratings from 1.2 kV to 20 kV. The 1.2-kV unit can work either as a 100:1 divider with a bandwidth of 300 MHz or as a 200-MHz 10:1 divider, in which case its maximum rating is 600 V. It sells for $264. The 20-kV probe has a 100-MHz bandwidth, a 1000:1 division ratio, and a $1573 price tag. All of the other probes have a bandwidth of 400 MHz and a 100:1 division ratio. Their prices range from $190 to $647.

Two differential amplifiers are offered: a 100-MHz unit with a sensitivity of 10 µV and a price tag of $3495 (Model DA 1855), and a 10-MHz device with a sensitivity of 1 µV, which costs $2695 (DA 1822). Each amplifier features variable gain and offset controls. Versions without the variable controls, the DA 1850 and the DA 1820, sell for $2695 and $1995, respectively. Contact: Mike Lauterbach, LeCroy Corp., 700 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977, 914-578-6057, Web, http://www.lecroy.com, or circle 100.

new & noteworthy

- Flotherm Version 2.0, a complete redesign of the original electronic thermal analysis software from Flomerics Ltd., Surrey, England, reduces the time and effort needed to determine the cooling requirements of electronic systems. It does so by incorporating new features that include: a graphical user-interface that allows all objects and boundary conditions to be manipulated with the touch of a mouse, and three dynamically interactive application windows (Project Manager, Drawing Board, and Visualization). These provide different ways of viewing and enhancing the model, plus thermal models for common parts that automatically turn a few user-specified characteristics into a detailed model of the specified part, plus the ability to interpret and simplify imported geometry from software such as Pro/ENGINEER, Solid Designer, and I-DEAS. An annual license for the Flotherm 2.0, which is now available for Unix and will be available for Windows NT in February, is $19 500. Contact: (44+0+181) 941 8810, fax, 941 8730, e-mail, flomerics@flomerics.co.uk, or circle 101.

- A bidirectional ac synchronous motor designed for precision motion control at low speeds has been introduced by Eastern Air Devices Inc., Dover, N.H. Intended for industrial, commercial, and medical machinery, the motor maintains an operating speed of 72 rpm without gearing and has a totally enclosed housing with permanently lubricated ball bearings. It comes in three NEMA-standard-sized models with varying torque outputs configured for 60 Hz at 120 V. Optional versions run at 60 rpm from 50 Hz ac. Many adaptations are possible to suit user specifications, including shafts with specially tooled ends, connectors, lead wires, heat sinks, and drivers. Contact: 603-742-3330; fax, 603-742-9080, or circle 102.

- Anritsu Co., Morgan Hill, Calif., has introduced the MA2470A series of power sensors for use with its ML2430A series power meters. The devices deliver 100 kilosamples per second over a 90-dB dynamic range (from –70 dBm to +20 dBm with a –78-dBm noise floor) and reduce sensor return loss by 5–6 dB through 50 GHz. Measurements over the upper portion of its power range (–45 to +20 dBm) follow the pulse power profile employed by digital cellular systems such as North American Digital Cellular and Global System for Mobile Communications. Contact: 408-776-8300, fax, 408-776-1744, or circle 103.

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