



NEWS
For Immediate Release

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**NEW GPIB-to-SERIAL INTERFACE BOARD
ANNOUNCED BY ICS ELECTRONICS**

MILPITAS, CA, October 8, 1999. Today, ICS Electronics announced a new GPIB-to-Serial Interface Board for interfacing devices with an RS-232 interface to the GPIB bus. Designated the Model 4806, this new board provides a IEEE-488.2 compliant, GPIB-to-serial, transparent data path to the device and at the same time provides a serial connector that maintains the existing RS-232 serial communications path to the device. The 4806 supports asynchronous, normal and smart serial devices.

The Model 4806 is an IEEE 488.2/GPIB to Serial Interface that adapts any RS-232 device to the GPIB or HP-IB bus. The 4806 provides the serial device with an IEEE-488.2 compatible interface that responds to all of the IEEE-488.2 Common Commands and includes the 488.2 Status Reporting Structure. The 4806 also responds to SCPI commands that let the user set its GPIB address and serial parameters. All other GPIB messages are transparently converted into serial strings and sent to the serial device. Device responses are buffered and output on the GPIB bus when the 4806 is next addressed to talk. The 4806 uses only a single GPIB address and does not rely upon escape sequences or extra commands to differentiate device data from internal commands.

The 4806 has three operating modes to handle virtually any kind of serial device. The Asynchronous mode is for devices like transducers that periodically output serial messages. The

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4806 saves the last message and outputs it when addressed to talk. The Standard mode is for the majority of serial devices that receive messages and then output responses when queried. The Smart mode is for communication with microcontrollers or embedded computers that can take advantage of the 4806's IEEE-488.2 interface. In the Smart mode, the 4806 passes GPIB messages to the serial device and always expects to receive a response message or an acknowledgment. The Smart device can set or reset bits in the 4806's Status Structure, query the local/remote status, request local mode, and query or set the 4806's GPIB address.

The 4806 is designed as a low cost interface for OEM applications. The unit is a small 4 in x 4.5 in board that can be mounted to the rear panel of the host chassis so that the GPIB and Serial connectors protrude through the rear panel. Connections to the serial device are made via a DE-9S connector on the back side of the 4806. The unit can operate on regulated 5 Vdc or on unregulated 5.5 to 12 volt power.

Delivery is stock to 3 weeks ARO.

ICS Electronics is a pioneer and leader in the design and development of IEEE 488 Bus support products and VXibus products. The ICS has been supplying GPIB interfaces for over 15 years and the 4806 is the latest interface in this series of products.

ICS Electronics is headquartered at 473 Los Coches Street, Milpitas, CA 95035. **Phone (408) 263-5500. Contact Jerry Mercola, Marketing Manager for more information.**