February 4, 1999

NEW GPIB MODBUS INTERFACE CARD
ANNOUNCED BY ICS   ELECTRONICS

MILPITAS, CA, February 4, 1999. Today ICS Electronics announced a new GPIB-to-Modbus Interface Card for controlling slave Modbus devices from the GPIB bus. Designated the Model 4809, this new GPIB Interface Card simplifies the user's control programs by handling all of the message formatting and checking required to communicate with devices that use the Modbus RTU protocol. The physical design of the 4809 makes it easy to add a GPIB interface to equipment such as temperature chambers, ovens etc.

The Model 4809 GPIB<->Modbus Interface Board is an IEEE 488.2/GPIB to Serial Interface that adapts Modbus slave devices to the GPIB or HP-IB bus. The 4809 accepts simple GPIB commands that specify the Modbus device number, data and the registers to be written to or queried. The 4809 converts these commands into the Modbus RTU format, adds the CRC checksum and transmits the messages to the Modbus device. Received messages are checked and query response data is outputted to the GPIB bus when the 4809 is next addressed to talk. Modbus communication faults, exception messages and other errors are reported to the user through a new Modbus Error Register in the 4809's 488.2 Status Reporting Structure. The 4809 can be set to generate an SRQ and alert the user when a Modbus error occurs.

The Model 4809 has an RS-232 port for direct connection to a Modbus device and an RS-485 port for controlling multiple Modbus devices over an RS-485 network. The 4809's serial port settings, GPIB address and the other 4809 configuration parameters are set with SCPI commands and then saved in nonvolatile E^{2}ROM.

The 4809 is a small 4.5 x 5.5 inch card that is designed to be mounted in the equipment with the Modbus devices. The 4809 runs on 5 Vdc from the host's power supply. The 4809 has headers for connection to panel mounted GPIB connectors, to an optional external GPIB address switch and to the Modbus devices. Accessory cable assemblies are available to mount a GPIB connector and an address switch on the rear panel of the host chassis.

Delivery is stock to 2 weeks ARO. Prices start at $ 345.00 for single pieces.

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 industrial controllers for over 15 years and the 4809 is the latest interface in this series of products.

ICS Electronics is headquartered at 473 Los Coches Street, Milpitas, CA 95035-5422. **Phone (408) 263-5500. Contact Jerry Mercola, Marketing Manager for more information.**

Dom