



by Mike Bacidore, editor in chief

UNMASK THE WINNERS

After a wild ride of a year, Control Design's audience determines the Readers' Choice Awards



If there were ever a year when we could all use some good news, it's this one.

And this roster of Readers' Choice Awards winners is full of great solutions from solid manufacturers. After months and months of sheltering in place and social distancing and videoconferencing, we've witnessed remote connectivity, artificial intelligence, machine learning and autonomous mobile robots transforming from science fiction into permanent components of the industrial-manufacturing landscape. This year saw small change in the companies' components and devices preferred by our readers. Let's take off the mask and reveal the winners.

CONTROL

CNC Controller

1. Fanuc
2. Siemens

Loop Controller

1. Red Lion
2. Yokogawa
3. Siemens
4. Rockwell Automation

Motion Controller

1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Yaskawa
4. Schneider Electric

Programmable Automation Controller (PAC)

1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Schneider Electric

Programmable Logic Controller (PLC)

1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Schneider Electric
4. Mitsubishi

Embedded Computer System

1. Advantech
2. Beckhoff Automation
3. Siemens
4. Rockwell Automation

Industrial-Grade Computer

1. Advantech
2. Beckhoff Automation
3. Rockwell Automation
4. Siemens
5. Phoenix Contact



HARDWARE

Circuit Protection

1. Eaton
2. Schneider Electric
3. Rockwell Automation
4. Siemens

Industrial Electrical Connector/ Cordset

1. Turck
2. Murrelektronik
3. Rockwell Automation
4. Schneider Electric

Industrial Enclosure

1. nVent
2. Rittal
3. Saginaw Control & Engineering
4. Hammond Manufacturing

Industrial Enclosure Thermal Product

1. Rittal
2. nVent

Operator Interface

1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Schneider Electric
4. Red Lion
5. AutomationDirect

Panel Meter

1. Red Lion
2. AutomationDirect
3. Simpson

Power Supply

1. Rockwell Automation
2. Emerson
3. Puls
4. Siemens

Relay

1. Rockwell Automation
2. Schneider Electric
3. Phoenix Contact
4. Siemens
5. IDEC
5. Omron

Stack Light Tower

1. Rockwell Automation
2. Banner Engineering
3. Patlite
4. Schneider Electric
5. Werma

Terminal Block

1. Phoenix Contact
2. Wago
3. Weidmuller
4. Rockwell Automation

Wire & Cabling

1. Belden
2. Lapp
3. Southwire
4. Alpha

MOTION

Gear Reducer

1. Altra Industrial Motion
2. SEW-Eurodrive
3. ABB
4. Stober
4. Dayton

Hydraulic System Controls/Components

1. Parker
2. Bosch Rexroth
3. Eaton
4. Emerson

Industrial Electric Motor

1. ABB
2. Regal-Beloit
3. Siemens
4. Weg

Industrial Electric Motor Drive

1. Rockwell Automation
2. ABB
3. Siemens
4. Danfoss



Linear Motion Actuator/ Slide/Guide

1. ABB
2. Siemens
3. Altra Industrial Motion
4. SMC
5. Festo
6. Rockwell Automation

Servo Motor

1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Yaskawa
4. Danaher
5. Bosch Rexroth

Stepper Motor

1. Oriental Motor
2. Danaher
3. Rockwell Automation
4. Parker

Motor Starter

1. Rockwell Automation
2. ABB
3. Siemens
4. Schneider Electric

Pneumatic Cylinder/Actuator

1. SMC
2. Festo
3. Parker
4. Bimba

Pneumatic Systems Controls/ Components

1. SMC
2. Festo
3. Parker
4. Emerson

Robots

1. Fanuc
2. ABB
3. Kuka Robotics
4. Universal Robots

NETWORKING

Data Acquisition System

1. National Instruments
2. Rockwell Automation
3. Red Lion

Data Recorder

1. Yokogawa
2. Rockwell Automation
3. Siemens

Wired Network Components

1. Cisco
2. Rockwell Automation
3. Red Lion
4. Moxa

Wireless Network Components

1. Cisco
2. Siemens
3. Moxa
4. Rockwell Automation

Network Protocol Converters/ Bridges/Adapters

1. HMS Industrial Networks
2. Rockwell Automation
3. Red Lion
4. Moxa
5. Cisco

Network Router/Switch

1. Cisco
2. Red Lion
3. Siemens
4. Phoenix Contact
5. Rockwell Automation

Input/Output System

1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Phoenix Contact
4. Wago

Machine-Mount Input/Output

1. Rockwell Automation
2. Phoenix Contact
3. Siemens
4. Turck

Remote Machine Access

1. HMS Industrial Networks
2. Rockwell Automation
3. Phoenix Contact
4. Siemens



SAFETY

Industrial Enclosure Purge System

1. Pepperl+Fuchs
2. nVent
3. Rittal

Intrinsic Safety Components

1. Pepperl+Fuchs
2. Rockwell Automation
3. Banner Engineering
4. Pilz
5. Sick

Machine Safety Components

1. Rockwell Automation
2. Banner Engineering
3. Euchner
4. Sick
4. Pilz
6. Omron

Programmable Safety Controller

1. Rockwell Automation
2. Banner Engineering
3. Sick
4. Omron
5. Siemens
6. Pilz

Safety Network Components

1. Rockwell Automation
2. Siemens
3. Pilz

Safety Relay

1. Rockwell Automation
2. Omron
3. Pilz
4. Banner Engineering
5. Phoenix Contact

SENSING

Linear Position Sensor

1. Balluff
2. MTS
3. Turck

Machine Vision System

1. Cognex
2. Keyence
3. Omron

Encoder/Resolver Measurement

1. Heidenhain
2. Encoder Products Co.
3. Rockwell Automation
3. BEI
5. Dynapar

Flow Measurement

1. Emerson
2. Endress+Hauser
3. ifm efector
4. Siemens

Level Measurement

1. Emerson
2. Endress+Hauser
3. Pepperl+Fuchs
4. Vega

Load Cell/Weighing Measurement

1. Mettler Toledo
2. Rice Lake
3. Omega

Pressure Measurement

1. Emerson
2. Endress+Hauser
3. ifm efector
4. Honeywell
5. Siemens

Temperature Measurement

1. Emerson
2. Endress+Hauser
3. Omega
4. ifm efector

Vibration Measurement

1. Fluke
2. Banner Engineering
3. GE
4. Bentley Nevada

Photoelectric Sensing

1. Banner Engineering
2. Keyence
3. Rockwell Automation
4. Omron
4. Sick

Proximity Switch

1. Turck
2. Pepperl+Fuchs
3. Rockwell Automation
4. ifm efector



Ultrasonic Sensor

- 1. Banner Engineering
- 2. Pepperl+Fuchs
- 3. ifm efector
- 4. Rockwell Automation
- 5. Siemens

RFID/Barcode Reader

- 1. Cognex
- 2. Keyence
- 3. Banner Engineering
- 3. Balluff
- 5. Siemens
- 6. Sick

SOFTWARE

Data Acquisition Software

- 1. Rockwell Automation
- 2. Schneider Electric
- 3. National Instruments
- 4. Dataq
- 5. Inductive Automation

ECAD Software

- 1. Autodesk
- 2. Dassault Systems
- 3. Eplan

Integrated Development Platform Software

- 1. Rockwell Automation
- 2. Siemens
- 3. Beckhoff Automation

HMI Software

- 1. Rockwell Automation
- 2. Schneider Electric
- 3. Siemens

Motion Control Software

- 1. Rockwell Automation
- 2. Siemens
- 3. Beckhoff Automation
- 4. Schneider Electric

PC-Based Machine Control Software

- 1. Rockwell Automation
- 2. Beckhoff Automation

PLC Programming Software

- 1. Rockwell Automation
- 2. Siemens
- 2. Schneider Electric

Network Management Software

- 1. Siemens
- 2. Cisco
- 3. Rockwell Automation

Methodology

More than 15,000 individuals who identify themselves as having buying influence or authority were invited to access our confidential ballot for the 2021 Control Design Readers' Choice Awards. All of the voting is unaided, meaning that no list of supplier choices is provided for guidance or assistance in the ballot. It is created entirely by the participants, who may vote for first, second and third preferences in each category. The results are grouped by Control, Hardware, Motion, Networking, Safety, Sensing and Software categories. The results do not knowingly include votes from any suppliers in the final tally.