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Shining brightly...advanced airport navigation lighting controllers for safe, happy landings!

Navigation lights at airports are essential devices for all-weather and safe landing and take-off for aircraft. In additon to runways and gate signals , indicators for taxiways are lit to show pilots the correct routes. These navigation lights need the utmost reliability and they feature redundant systems in most cases. Mannheim - based Lucebit GmbH from Mannheim is the market leader for this equipment.

For many years, Janz Automationssysteme AG has suppliesd controllers to Lucebit GmbH (originally ABB Airport Technologies AG).

Today, Lucebit is a succesful, medium-sized company, offering airport navigation lighting solutions for small as well as large airports at home and abroad. As a system provider, Lucebit is involved even from the planning stage to the point of building and implementation. Requiring a lengthy warranty (as far as 10 years) they searched for a reliable partner with a high level of controller expertise.

About 8 years ago, Janz' emPC-X133 was used for a short time as the system controller box. Now the requirements for versatility have required considerable changes. Janz Automationssysteme AG's development competence, together with Lucebit's requirements resulted in a decision to make a custom, jointly developed controller system. After the initial design offering (Geode LX-800 based UCS-300) a successor model was developed in 2008 - UCS-1000. The new system upgrades the front display and a more powerful processor (1.0GHz Intel Celeron M ULV) as well as rapid Ethernet interfaces.

Featuring the usual industrial controller interfaces (3 x Gigabyte-Ethernet ports, 4 x USB2.0 ports, 2 x serial interfaces and 1 x DVI-I-Interface), additionally CANopen and several analog and digital I/Os have been added to provide a perfect custom solution.

This control PC works in Linux well as all Windows operating systems.

To allow simple integration in new as well as existing installations, the dimensions of this controller had to be compact. Easy unit serviceability was also very important, so connections were provided above and below the system. Status-LEDs and a text-based status line display was located on the front of the unit. With dimensions of 134 x 185 x 90mm, this PC offers the highest performance available in this configuration.