Flexible and fast programming of flash devices via streaming

Streaming mode expands the FlashFOX universal programmer for embedded in-system programming (ISP) of microcontrollers, flash devices, and PLD/FPGA

When programming flash devices in a production environment, speed and flexible use of the programmers are key: Programming data often has to be adapted and changed at short notice to take account of line utilization or the latest firmware version. Until now, this meant that the images to be flashed always had to be updated locally on the programmer. This makes the programming process unnecessarily inflexible, time-consuming, and logistically complex. To solve this challenge, GÖPEL electronic has made its universal programmer FlashFOX streaming-capable: With this function, the programmer dynamically retrieves the content to be programmed from the central server, ensuring that it is always up to date. This simplifies fast flash programming and enables central administration and second-by-second adjustment of images in the production environment.

At the same time, FlashFOX can be operated in stand-alone mode. The streaming mode facilitates the handling of target-specific data through the dynamic transfer of programming data. FlashFOX is the world's first stand-alone programmer with an integrated JAM/STAPL player in accordance with the JESD71 standard. This integration expands the capabilities of FlashFOX to perform standardized test and programming operations on each channel independently.

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If required, external PODs can be connected to each FlashFOX at a distance of up to 4 m, enabling flexible use in a wide variety of production environments, even those prone to interference. However, this can result in critical signal propagation times, which can be calculated and compensated for using a new ADYCS automation feature. This makes the programmer performance for each channel independent of the distance to the target, even in complex installations.

The FlashFOX is the first programmer with WLAN connectivity, enabling seamless integration into the IIoT world and support for flexible Industry 4.0 implementations. The FlashFOX can be easily and securely configured, controlled, and verified via any web browser using the integrated web server, without the need for separate PC software. This enables remote maintenance of the programmers even at remote production sites.

About GÖPEL electronic

GÖPEL electronic develops and manufactures innovative electrical and optical test, measurement, and inspection equipment for electronic components and printed circuit board assemblies as well as industrial and automotive electronics systems. GÖPEL electronic has four business units:
- Automotive Test Solutions
- Embedded JTAG Solutions
- Inspection Solutions AOI-AXI-SPI-IVS
- Industrial Function Test
The company is active worldwide, with its own subsidiaries as well as through distributors, and generated sales of approximately 40 million euros in 2023 with 240 employees.
Further information: www.goepel.com/en