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DCB Announces EtherBridge for Point-to Point and Point-to-Multipoint Ethernet Bridging

Simple installation provides an attractive alternative to IP routing for last mile connections over DDS, modems, or wireless asynchronous links

Data Comm for Business, Inc. (DCB), a leader in manufacturing innovative data communications equipment since 1981, announces their new EtherBridge asynchronous Ethernet bridge. This new bridge connects mission-critical LANs over most any asynchronous wide area network. Its applications range from security and traffic control to financial transactions, process industries and SCADA applications.

Typically, the last mile connection is a link to a small number of devices, perhaps just a single device in many traffic control and SCADA applications. In these cases, routers and their somewhat complicated setup requirements are an undesired, expensive administrative burden on the application. The EtherBridge provides a simple and low cost solution for these connections. The link between EtherBridge units can run at speeds as low as 300 bps and as fast as 230 Kbps. The Ethernet interface is auto sensing 10/100 baseT Ethernet. The only setup required for the EtherBridge is to set the asynchronous speed. If a user so chooses, it is also possible to turn on a remote management function which enables SNMP, web-browser based management, and telnet management of the bridges.

The EtherBridge is a small unit, just 4 ¼" by 5 ½" by 1U high (1.5"). Up to 4 of the EtherBridge units can be mounted side by side in a 1U rack. The EtherSeries Bridge can also be DIN rail mounted. Numerous power supply options are available for both AC

and DC power. The EtherBridge is designed to operate at elevated temperatures, up to 70 degrees C.

The EtherBridge is available in two versions, point-to-point and point-to-multipoint. Applications for point-to-point include connecting any two locations via wireless modem. Examples are a remote small office/home office (SOHO) connected to a corporate office over an asynchronous DDS link, connecting security remotes to a host computer using a wireless modem, or connecting to an electrical sub-station to the network using dial-up or leased line modems. Point-to-multipoint applications have included wireless connections from a central collection point to roving vehicles or ships engaged in data collection and connecting remote LANs via multi-point radio modems.

"In many applications, routers are used because the designer is unaware of these much simpler and cost effective solutions to the problem," notes Russ Straayer, president of Data Comm for Business. "Why go through the extra expense and administration if a simple Ethernet bridge will suffice? Technical personnel have enough manuals to read and details to remember without also being required to be router experts "

The EtherBridge operates by examining all Ethernet packets to determine if they are destined for an address at the remote end of the link. If the packets are destined for the far end, they are passed on, if not then the packet is ignored. The EtherBridge units are always "learning" and updating each other. This constant checking allows a technician to use a laptop computer at the host site, and then travel to a remote site and use the same computer there without having to re-configure the bridges. The EtherBridge allows this convenience because the Ethernet address tables are constantly being updated.

For more information regarding the EtherBridge or other DCB products such as DSUs, Frads, multiplexers, Ethernet SCADA equipment, routers, and wireless access devices, contact Data Comm for Business, Inc. at 2949 CR 1000E, Illinois 61840; 800-4-DCB-NET; 217-897-6600; Fax 217-897-1331; Info@dcbnet.com or www.dcbnet.com.

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