

# Press Release

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MicroTCA

## MicroTCA for automation

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The AdvancedTCA standard issued in 2002 was developed specifically for applications with high performance demands. The recently published MicroTCA standard rounds this spectrum off at the bottom end. Through the small form factor of the MicroTCA systems as well as the flexible, modular and scalable architecture these are an attractive alternative and a useful addition. This is particularly relevant for price sensitive industry applications.

MicroTCA is a modular platform where AMC modules can be assembled directly onto the backplane. Through the openness of the PICMG MicroTCA standard and the possible combination of any of the defined AdvancedMC module sizes in a MicroTCA system, the most varied configurations can be realised easily. In the telecom area MicroTCA is mainly intended for applications in the access area, in base stations and in internal telecommunication networks of mid and large size companies. Typical applications are for example Base Transceiver Stations, VoIP Gateways, WiMAX solutions and software based IP telephone installations.

The flexibility and modularity, in connection with the new transfer technologies in particular, make MicroTCA interesting for industry applications. If one only looks at the mechanics, the MicroTCA standard is practically a specific version or extension of the 19" technology. MicroTCA is so flexible, that the usual dimensions of the 19" technology, i. e. 19" width or ETSI width and depth, can be realised. Smaller units, too, (Cube or Pico) are defined for the first time. Under these one understands very small subracks, which are assembled with very few AdvancedMC modules, possibly even without MCH (MicroTCA Carrier Hub). Such small systems were also possible with 19" technology, but they were not common. Since the MicroTCA standard not only describes the mechanics, as does the 19" standard, but also all components which are required for a complete system, the MicroTCA standard makes the configuration of a system much easier for the user.

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Specifically the small, so-called Pico or Cube systems compete with today's IPC and Embedded Computer solutions and above all offer modularity which many users have so far missed. Schroff offers a wide MicroTCA product range for such applications with single components such as subracks, backplanes, power supplies, front panels etc. which, depending on the demands of applications, can be upgraded to complete systems.

A further advantage of the MicroTCA standard: existing operating systems and user software can be utilised. In the meantime a large number of different AdvancedMC modules are available on the market, as their development did not start with MicroTCA, but with the introduction of AdvancedMC at the end of 2004. In particular MicroTCA offers fast lead-in for new developments. The development of MicroTCA will continue to be fast, as this standard is driven forward not only by a few specialised companies, but specifically by integrators working worldwide in the telecom sector, but also for the benefit of applications in industrial automation, image processing, medical and defence technology.

Picture caption: For Automation: Pico or Cube Systems compete with today's IPC and Embedded Computer Solutions

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