

Mitsubishi Electric supports modular Industry 4.0 training platform for engineering education provider

Hatfield, UK – March 2026

Mitsubishi Electric Automation Systems Division UK has supported MECHATRONICS International Ltd in the development of a modular automation training platform designed to reflect the realities of modern networked manufacturing environments.

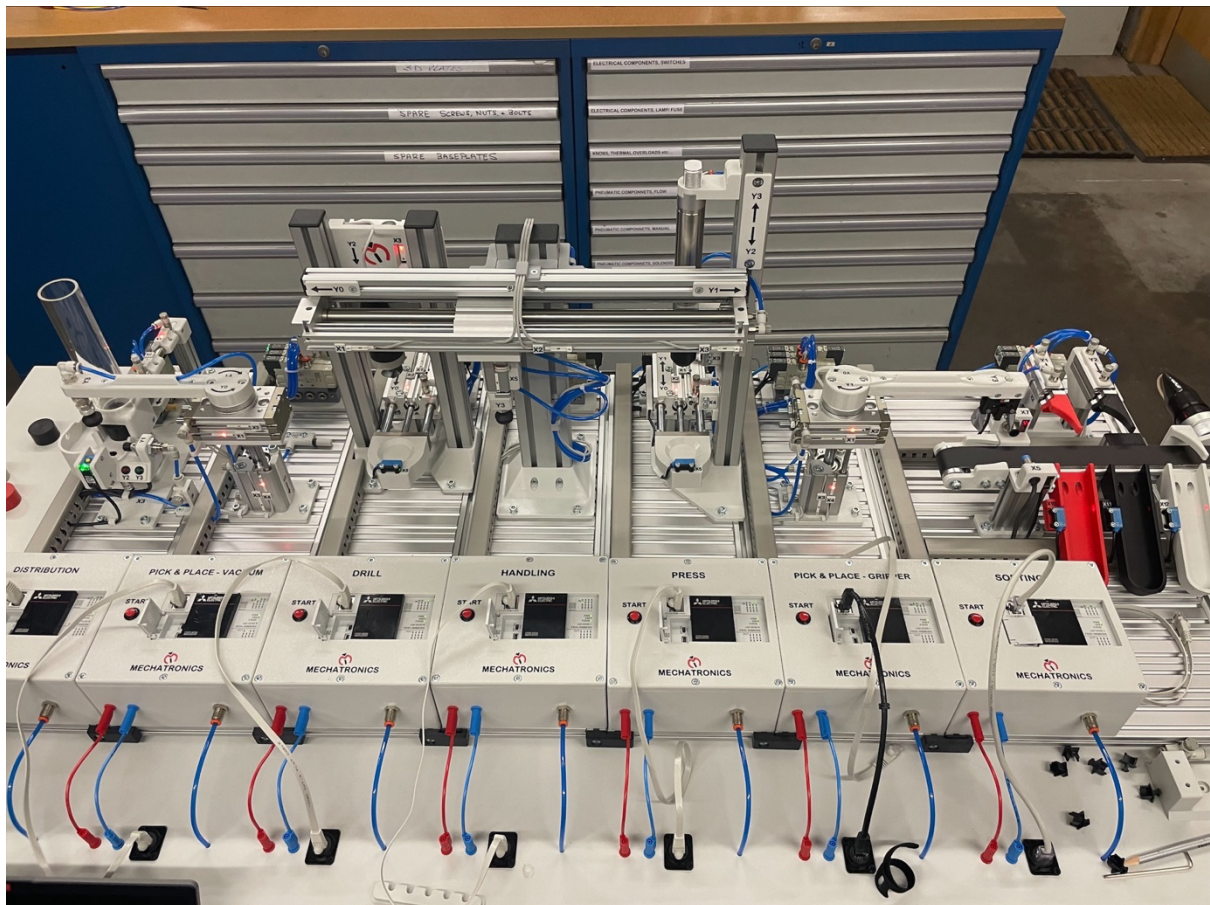


Image caption: MECHATRONICS is a manufacturer of engineering training systems used worldwide

Founded in 1988, MECHATRONICS International Ltd is a British manufacturer of engineering training systems used by colleges, universities, industrial training centres and organisations worldwide, covering technologies including fluid power (hydraulics and pneumatics), mechanical power transmission, and industrial automation and control systems.

Built using genuine industrial components, the training platforms mirror real industrial environments, enabling students to gain hands-on experience with modern engineering and automation technologies.

Supplied via channel partner BPX, the solution centres on Mitsubishi Electric's MELSEC iQ-F FX5S PLCs and GT2107 HMI, supported by the iQ Works2 software suite. The CMS (Compact Mechatronics System) replicates a small-scale automated production line, helping engineering students develop practical skills in PLC programming, networking, diagnostics and production data monitoring.

The production line training system incorporates communication between multiple PLC stations using Ethernet-based simple PLC communication. Upgrading from the earlier Mitsubishi Electric FX3S controllers to the FX5S platform has allowed MECHATRONICS International to implement a modern networked control architecture that reflects the communication structures used in modern industrial automation systems.



Image caption: Mitsubishi's solution comprised the FX5S platform and integrated HMI solutions

Seven FX5S 30 I/O (MRDS) PLCs are integrated with a GT2107WTSD HMI, providing visualisation of system status, fault diagnostics, cycle times and basic OEE-style production data capture. The inclusion of Industry 4.0-ready monitoring capabilities demonstrates how operational data can be gathered and analysed within a connected environment.

Barry James, Managing Director at MECHATRONICS International Ltd, commented: "We've worked with Mitsubishi Electric for many years, so building this latest training platform around the FX5S was an obvious choice. Moving to simple PLC communication over Ethernet has made a significant difference from a development perspective.

"Parameter-based configuration removes the need for extensive custom code, which reduces programming complexity for both us and the students, while Ethernet connectivity has cut wiring time compared to traditional hardwired PLC-to-PLC connections.

“The modular design of the CMS has always been central to its use in training environments. Each station can operate independently for focused teaching or be combined into a complete automated production line within a compact footprint.

“That flexibility allows colleges to simulate a realistic, networked factory environment without exceeding tight educational budgets. Mitsubishi Electric’s ongoing technical support has helped ensure the system delivers both industrial realism and ease of use, which is important when preparing learners and technicians for modern automation and engineering roles.”

Stephen Thornton, Regional Account Manager at Mitsubishi Electric Automation Systems Division UK, added: “One of the biggest challenges facing UK manufacturing is ensuring the next generation of engineers are trained on technologies that reflect what they will encounter in industry.

“By supporting MECHATRONICS International with the FX5S platform and integrated HMI solutions, we’re helping to create an environment that mirrors real-world factory automation.

“We’ve worked closely with MECHATRONICS for more than 25 years and in that time, we’ve built a relationship based on trust, consistency and technical collaboration. That longevity means we understand their requirements in detail, and they know they can rely on us as a go-to automation partner when developing new training platforms.

“The result is a solution that genuinely bridges the gap between classroom learning and the factory floor. By combining modern PLC networking, visualisation and data monitoring capabilities, students gain hands-on experience with the same architectures and technologies they’ll encounter in contemporary production environments.”

For more information on Mitsubishi Electric’s range of PLC, HMI and machine control solutions, please visit: <https://gb.mitsubishielectric.com/fa/>.

For more information on MECHATRONICS International products email admin@mech.co.uk.

ENDS

About Mitsubishi Electric Corporation

With more than 100 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (TOKYO: 6503) is a recognized world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and

communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, energy, transportation and building equipment. Mitsubishi Electric enriches society with technology in the spirit of its “Changes for the Better.” The company recorded a revenue of 5,521.7 billion yen (U.S.\$ 36.8 billion*) in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025.

For more information, please visit www.MitsubishiElectric.com

**U.S. dollar amounts are translated from yen at the rate of ¥150=U.S.\$1, the approximate rate on the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market on March 31, 2025.*

About Mitsubishi Electric Factory Automation Business Group

Offering a vast range of automation and processing technologies, including controllers, drive products, power distribution and control products, electrical discharge machines, electron beam machines, laser processing machines, computerized numerical controllers, and industrial robots, Mitsubishi Electric helps bring higher productivity – and quality – to the factory floor. In addition, its extensive service networks around the globe provide direct communication and comprehensive support to customers. The global slogan “Automating the World” shows the company’s approach to leverage automation for the betterment of society, through the application of advanced technology, sharing know how and supporting customers as a trusted partner.

For more about the story behind “Automating the World” please visit:

www.MitsubishiElectric.com/fa/about-us/automating-the-world

Factory Automation EMEA

Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V., Factory Automation EMEA has its European headquarters in Ratingen near Dusseldorf, Germany. It is a part of Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V. that has been represented in Germany since 1978, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Japan. The role of Factory Automation EMEA is to manage sales, service and support across its network of local branches and distributors throughout the EMEA region.

For more information, please visit emea.mitsubishielectric.com/fa

About e-F@ctory

e-F@ctory is Mitsubishi Electric’s integrated concept to build reliable and flexible manufacturing systems that enable users to achieve many of their high speed, information driven manufacturing aspirations. Through its partner solution activity, the e-F@ctory Alliance, and its work with open network associations such as the CC-Link Partners Association (CLPA), users can build comprehensive solutions based on a wide ranging “best in class” principle. In summary, e-F@ctory and the e-F@ctory Alliance enable customers to achieve integrated manufacturing but still retain the ability to choose the most optimal suppliers and solutions.

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