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**Renishaw launches functional safety variant of FORTiS™ enclosed encoder**

Renishaw has launched functionally safe variants of the FORTiS enclosed encoder series.

FORTiS™ FS is an enclosed linear absolute encoder system certified to the following functional safety standards: ISO 13849:2015 PLd, IEC 61508:2010 SIL2, IEC 61800-5-2:2016 SIL2. It also offers all the other benefits of the cutting edge FORTiS encoder series.

Certain machinery safety functions, such as Safety Limited Speed (SLS), require the encoder position feedback to be functionally safe. Utilising an encoder system that is already rated for use in safety-related applications can make machine certification significantly easier.

Adopting these advanced machinery safety functions enables machine tool builders to make safer machines that are capable of higher functionality, reducing set-up times and machine downtime.

FORTiS FS encoders are compatible with the Siemens DRIVE-CLiQ and BiSS safety serial communications protocols.

**About FORTiS enclosed encoders**

The innovative [FORTiS](https://www.renishaw.com/en/enclosed-optical-encoders--45273) enclosed linear absolute encoder series is designed for use in harsh environments such as machine tools.

The FORTiS encoder design is built upon industry-proven [RESOLUTE™](https://www.renishaw.com/en/resolute-encoder-series--37823) encoder technology and provides high resistance to the ingress of liquids and solid debris contaminants. It features an extruded enclosure with longitudinally attached interlocking lip seals and sealed end caps. The readhead body is joined to a sealed optical unit by a blade, which travels through the DuraSeal™ lip seals along the length of the encoder.

Linear axis movement causes the readhead and optics to traverse the encoder's absolute scale (which is fixed to the inside of the enclosure), without mechanical contact.

Customers can choose from two different extrusion profiles to suit their space requirements. The [FORTiS-S](https://www.renishaw.com/en/fortis-s-enclosed-absolute-encoder--45272) linear encoder is the standard-sized encoder, available with measuring lengths from 140 mm to 3040 mm and is installed directly to a machined surface via flexure holes in the extrusion's body. The [FORTiS-N](https://www.renishaw.com/en/fortis-n-enclosed-absolute-encoder--45535) encoder, available with measuring lengths from 70 mm to 2040 mm, features a narrower cross-section extrusion and a more compact readhead to enable installations in confined spaces. This model can be mounted directly to a machined surface via two end cap mounting holes or a mounting spar for greater rigidity.

Ian Eldred, Principal Mechanical Engineer at Renishaw, highlights a range of unique and ground-breaking design features, coupled with the introduction of newly released Functionally Safe (FS) variants:

“The new FORTiS enclosed absolute encoder range is the culmination of years of R&D effort at Renishaw. It delivers superior repeatability, reduced hysteresis and improved measurement performance due to an innovative non-contact mechanical design that doesn't require a mechanical guidance carriage. Five years of accelerated life testing, under the harshest conditions, has enabled Renishaw to develop and refine the new advanced DuraSeal lip seals. These offer excellent resistance to wear and machine tool lubricants, superior sealing and ingress protection up to IP64 when combined with air purge.”

He continues, “FORTiS absolute encoders also feature integrated, specially-designed tuned mass dampers that deliver class-leading 30 g vibration resistance and push the limits of what enclosed encoders can endure. Installation of FORTiS encoders is quick and easy, which will help our customers save manufacturing and servicing time. Furthermore, with the growing industrial trend towards risk reduction for systems and processes, we were committed to providing Functional Safety variants for all FORTiS enclosed encoders. We are now delighted to offer FS certified products to the market just four months after launching the FORTiS range.”

**Benefits of FORTiS absolute encoders**

The FORTiS absolute encoder series is designed to be robust and resistant to a wide range of mechanical shock and vibration effects. All FORTiS-S encoders, and FORTiS-N encoders when installed with mounting spars, are rated up to 30 g which ensures dependable metrology for even the harshest environments and demanding motion control applications.

In addition to its extruded enclosure, FORTiS encoders are also protected against contamination by a further level of sealing: the readhead optical unit (which runs inside the enclosure) is itself sealed to prevent contamination by liquids, swarf and other debris. Moreover, improved sealing of the FORTiS encoder enclosure reduces air leakage from the air purge system, resulting in lower operating costs and greater system longevity.

FORTiS encoders feature a range of serial communications protocols including BiSS C, BiSS Safety, Siemens DRIVE-CLiQ, FANUC, Mitsubishi, and Panasonic. The encoder dimensions also ensure space and bolt-hole compatibility with a wide range of alternative current and legacy systems.

Unlike traditional installation methods, peripheral diagnostic equipment is not essential. Renishaw's patented set-up LED and carefully designed installation accessories ensure intuitive and right-first-time installation that is substantially faster than more conventional systems, even in restricted locations.

For enhanced functionality, installers can connect the Advanced Diagnostic Tool, ADTa-100, via a standard USB connector, to a PC running Renishaw's ADT View software. This provides a user-friendly graphical interface of advanced diagnostic information, including key encoder performance parameters such as signal strength along the axis length. A permanent record of installation data can be saved providing confidence to both machine builders and users.

Renishaw FORTiS absolute encoder systems have CE approval and are manufactured in-house using strict quality-controlled processes that are certified to ISO 9001:2015 and backed by a global sales and support network.

Please contact your local Renishaw sales representative to discuss how the FORTiS absolute encoder series can help solve your metrology challenges.

For more information about Renishaw's new FORTiS FS enclosed linear encoders, visit [www.renishaw.com/fortis](http://www.renishaw.com/fortis)

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