

NEWS RELEASE July 2008

Trio Motion's MC206X starter kit moves Daleks to a stage managed clash with Dr Who®

Motion and machine controller supplied as starter kit delights first time user

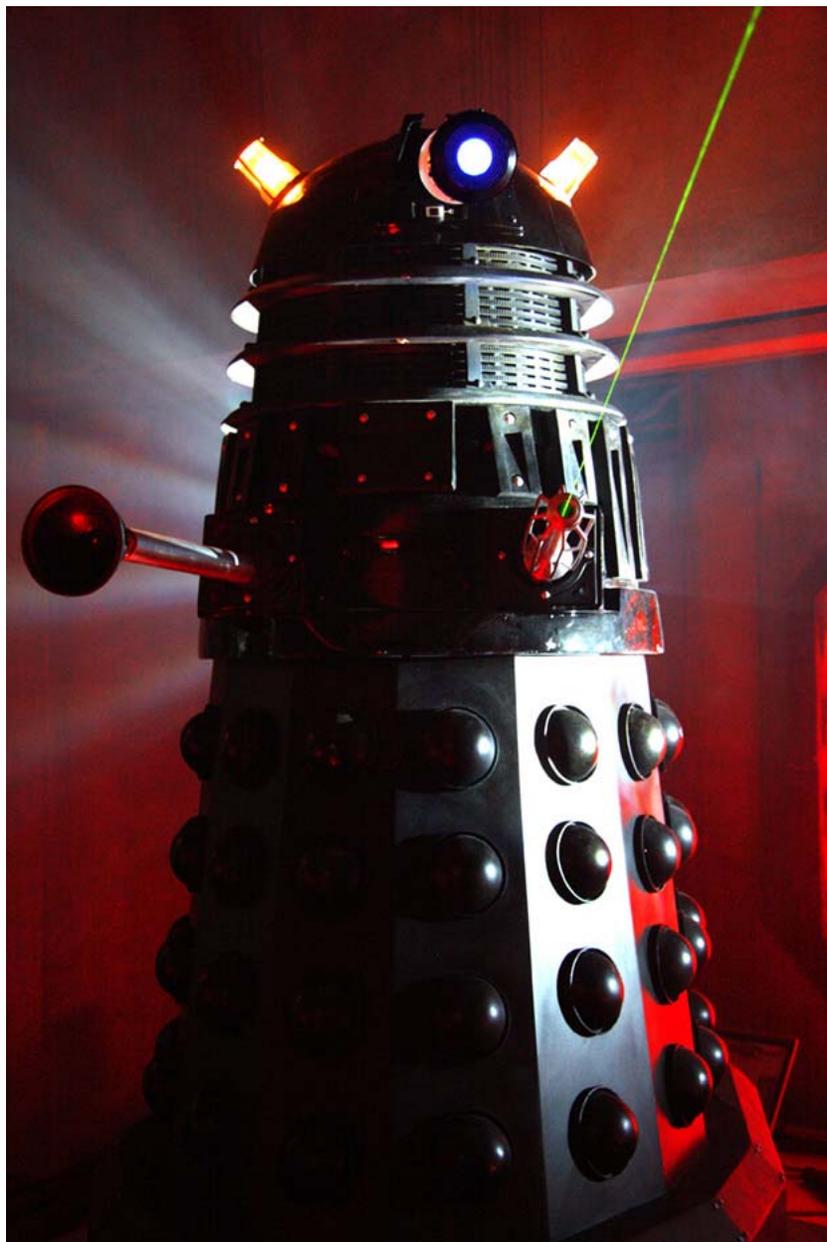


Image supplied by Windmill Studios

Tewkesbury - UK - May 2008: London based Windmill Studios provide audio-visual solutions for the conference, live events and attractions industry and when Trio Motion launched its recent special offer for evaluation kits, it seemed an ideal opportunity to try out the MC206X motion controller whilst saving costs for a special effects project that involved

animating Daleks in a visual panorama of synchronised graphics and motion for the phenomenally popular Dr Who Up-Close Exhibitions.

Organised by Martin Wilkie of Experience Design and Management of Shepperton Film Studios with the close cooperation of the BBC, these exhibitions showcase props, costumes, monsters and creatures from the hit BBC TV show in animated and interactive stand-alone displays that feature TV episode sets with life-sized models of the TARDIS and other gadgets, plus monsters and villains such as the Daleks, Cybermen and the Slitheen. Windmill Studios are sub-contractors for all the audio visual content and special effects for the exhibitions which are currently showing across the UK in London, Cardiff, Liverpool, Blackpool and Land's End (<http://www.doctorwhoexhibitions.com/>).



The MC206X Starter Kit includes the motion controller configured to suit the axis count and drive technology required along with all the cables, SD card memory, software and manuals required for the job in hand. Currently priced with an average saving of up to 38% off recommended list prices, the kit is aimed at all new customers (not just those building Dalek's), on a one-per-customer basis.

For Windmill Studios, the MC206X controlled each Dalek's floor movement via a two-axis servo motor driven carriage and with its own on-board digital I/O and an additional 16 channel CANbus I/O module, also sequenced the start-stop positioning of several brushed DC motor driven axes for the rotating and vertically actuated head, the Dalek's famous 'gunstick' and manipulator arms, as well as handling a variety of synchronised lighting and mechatronic effects.

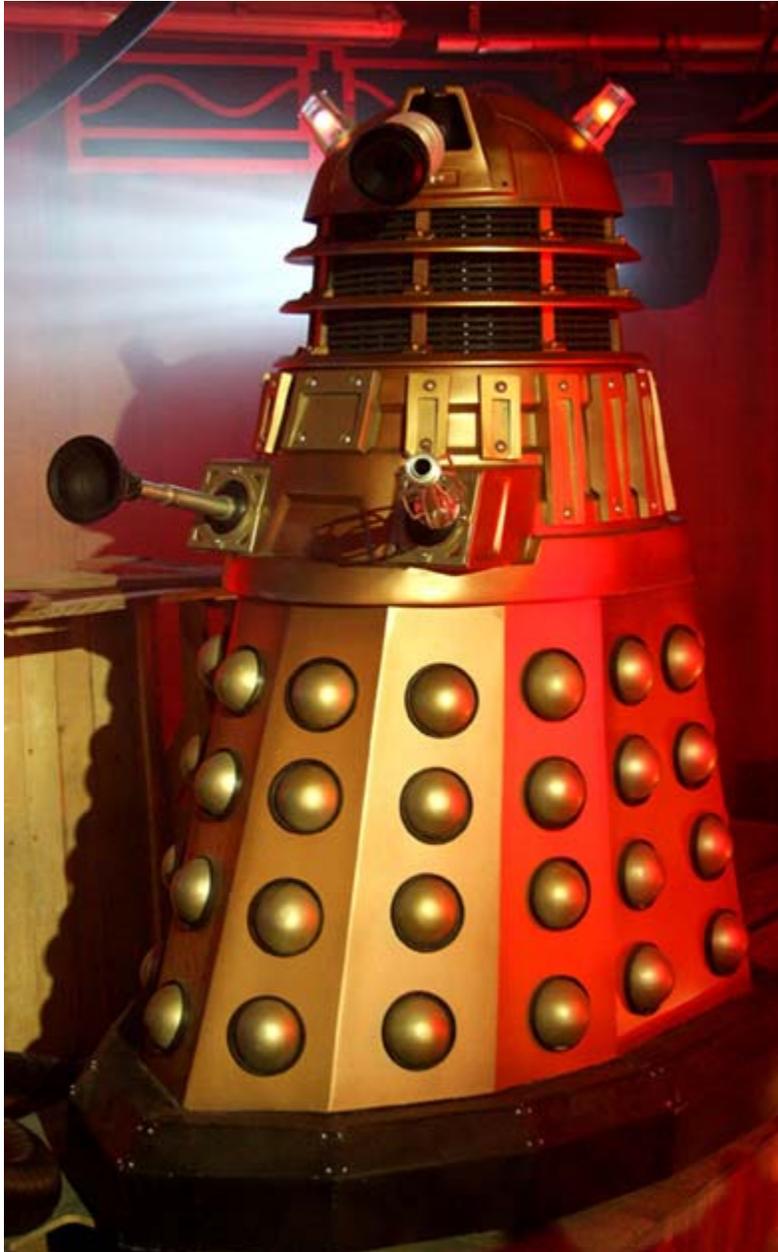
Trio's independent policy towards its customer's choice of drives, motors and communications allowed Windmill Studios to select SEM AC servo motors and IRT servo drives, which are widely specified and often preferred within the stage, theatre and audio-visual automation arena.

Dave Black, a Project Manager with Windmill Studios, with over twenty years experience in the industry, has used a variety of competitive motion control systems and was struck by how straightforward and fast it was to install and program the MC206X. "I found the Trio *MotionPerfect2* development software easy-to-use for configuration and programming", says Black, "the project-based approach along with the axis and I/O monitoring, and the simplicity of the Trio BASIC language allowed for really fast application development. I was particularly impressed with the plug-and-play CANbus I/O module which really was up and running in seconds - that's something we have rarely experienced with other motion controllers".

The din-rail mounted MC206X uses Trio's high performance 32-bit floating point DSP technology to provide high-speed, flexibility and connectivity for up to 4 axes of stepper or servo motor control plus a master encoder input and two virtual axes. An expansion connector is also included for an optional fifth motion axis module or a daughter board to enable digital drive networks such as Sercos, Control Techniques SLM or CAN to be used to add additional axes, increase I/O or provide an interface for factory communications.

The controller is part of the *Motion Coordinator* family that offer from 1 to 64 axes of motion and machine control in modular designs that allow machine builders and OEMs to select their preferred drive, feedback and motor technologies in combination with a wide choice of factory and drive communication networks. Benefiting from the scaleable

MotionPerfect2 application development language with its easy-to-use yet powerful multitasking TrioBASIC software or a choice of G-code or IEC 61131 programming options, a wide range of progressive features are included for reduced development times, increased production throughput, improved accuracy and higher levels of security for automation systems of all sizes.



With a complement of 16 opto-isolated I/O (8 in, 8 bi-directional), high-speed registration inputs for each axis and an adaptor for a fibre optic network for adding Trio HMIs, the flexible MC206X is aimed at small to medium sized control applications in manufacture and test, process control, and research - not just for alien life-form simulation!

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