

## Application Notes...



# Fire fighting vehicles

Access platform fire fighters need to be able to park their vehicles accurately. Get it wrong and either the platform won't reach or, if the platform has to extend too far, the vehicle could topple due to lever effects

### Brief given

A system was needed to control the stabiliser feet on the fire fighting vehicle and to control the extension of the platform to provide increased safety in situations where every second counts.

### The solution

An ESX CANbus controller and Opus HMI unit were selected to control the hydraulics for the outside stabiliser feet, applying more pressure where needed to adapt the balance as the the platform is rotated. The system also controls the extension of the platform, with fail-safes for overload conditions. The system interfaces to the existing engine CANbus system to speed up or slow down the hydraulic pump.

### Implementation

The biggest issue here was to set up the HMI to show the operator the exact position of the

platform, indicating at the same time how much more extension was possible before any overload, so that an early decision could be made about whether to move the vehicle. Safety considerations included using the CANbus system to first test the ground under the vehicle to ensure that the surface is sound enough to support the vehicle.

### Conclusion

Fire engines can now be positioned and used within minutes of arriving on the scene, allowing fires to be tackled more quickly and with a higher degree of safety.

# Sensor-Technik

## The UK's CANbus specialist

Making the move to a bus-based control system is a big step, but it needn't be a difficult one. Whether you require fully-approved components with a track record, or complete system design, Sensor-Technik has the answer. And we'll be with you every step of the way.

CANbus provides the ideal system for integrating electronic controls into vehicles and machinery, particularly because it's a system which is to ISO standard and which is supported by so many different manufacturers.

## ESX Controllers

The ESX family of freely programmable controllers from STW is specially designed for mobile applications such as agricultural machinery, construction equipment, man and material lifts and many other demanding tasks. Robust cast-aluminum housings with an IP65 rating (optionally IP67) offer a high degree of safety in terms of EMC and the extremes of outdoor environments.

## Wachendorff HMIs

The Opus family from Wachendorff provides an extremely high quality range of displays, HMIs and operator panels, developed with commercial vehicle applications in mind. Attractively designed and expertly finished, these control interfaces for CANbus systems are sealed to IP65 and feature backlighting that adjusts automatically to ambient light.

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