Programmable Mass Flow Controller with Digital Signal Processing

Microprocessor driven digital flow controllers allow one to program, record, and analyze flow rates of various gases with a computer via an RS-485 interface.

Optional RS-232 is available.

Controllers can be programmed for various control functions including flow set point, totalizer, stop totalizer, read totalizer, totalizer from preset flow, stop at preset total, auto zero, and more.

Design Features

- Digital and Analog modes operate simultaneously.
- Programmable Flow Configurations.
- Multi-Drop Capability of up to 256 units.
- Stores calibration data for up to 10 gases.
- Totalizer indicates total gas quantity.
- Alarm limits for high and low gas flow.
- Conversion factors for up to 256 gases.
- Auto Tune function for optimum control response.
- Self-Diagnostic Tests.

Principles of Operation

Metered gases are divided into two laminar flow paths, one through the primary flow conduit, and the other through a capillary sensor tube. Both flow conduits are designed to ensure laminar flows and therefore the ratio of their flow rates is constant. Two precision temperature sensing windings on the sensor tube are heated, and when flow takes place, gas carries heat from the upstream to the downstream windings. The resultant temperature differential is proportional to the change in resistance of the sensor windings.

A Wheatstone bridge design is used to monitor the temperature dependent resistance gradient on the sensor windings which is linearly proportional to the instantaneous rate of flow. The output of the Wheatstone bridge is converted to digital format with a 12 Bit ADC (analog to digital converter).
An on-board microprocessor and non-volatile memory store all calibration factors and directly control a proportionating electromagnetic valve. The digital closed loop control system continuously compares the mass flow output with the selected flow rate. Deviations from the set point are corrected by compensating valve adjustments, with PID algorithm thus maintaining the desired flow parameters with a high degree of accuracy. Output signals of 0 to 5Vdc or 4 to 20mA are generated indicating mass molecular based flow rates of the metered gas.

**Interface**

The **digital interface** operates via RS485 (optional RS232) and provides access to applicable internal data including FLOW SET POINT, ACTUAL FLOW, ZERO ADJUSTMENTS, and LINEARIZATION TABLE ADJUSTMENTS.

The analog interface provides 0 to 5Vdc, 0 to 10Vdc and 4 to 20 mA inputs and outputs.

**Auto Zero**

The DFC automatically nulls the sensor zero offset whenever the flow set point is below 2% of full scale. To accommodate this feature the control valve must fully close under that condition. Provisions are made to either disable, force or store the current auto zero via digital commands.

**Totalizer**

The firmware for the DFC provides functions to register total gas quantity. The total mass of gas is calculated by integrating the actual gas flow rate with respect to time.

**Digital Interface Commands are provided to:**

- SET THE TOTALIZER TO ZERO.
- START /STOP TOTALIZING THE FLOW.
- READ THE TOTALIZER.
- START THE TOTALIZER AT A PRESET FLOW.
- STOP THE FLOW AT A PRESET TOTAL.

**Multi-Gas Calibration**

The DFC is capable of storing primary calibration data for up to 10 gases. This feature allows the same DFC to be calibrated for multiple gases while maintaining the rated accuracy on each.

**Conversion Factors**

Conversion factors for up to 256 gases are stored in the DFC. Conversion factors may be applied to any of the ten gas calibrations via digital interface commands.

**Flow Alarms**

High and Low gas flow ALARM limits are programmed using the digital interface. Alarm conditions are reported via the digital interface or can activate the contact closure outputs.

**Programmable Flow**

Aalborg software supports programmable flow modes, allowing execution of custom programming of up to ten steps. Various flow configurations include ramping, linearized increasing and decreasing modes.
Auto Tune

The AUTO TUNE function allows the DFC to automatically optimize control response for the gas under actual process conditions. During the AUTO TUNE process, the instrument adjusts PID gains for optimum step response and determine key control valve characteristics (only available on units with less than 80 L/min maximum flow).

Valve Override

Means are provided to force the control valve fully open (purge) or fully closed via either the analog or digital interfaces.

Self-Diagnostics

Whenever power is first applied, the DFC runs a series of SELF-DIAGNOSTIC TESTS to ensure that it is in optimum working condition.

Contact Closure

Two sets of dry contact relay outputs are provided to actuate user supplied equipment. These are programmable via the digital interface such that the relays can be made to switch when a specified event occurs (e.g. when a low or high flow alarm limit is exceeded or when the totalizer reaches a specified value).

Engineering Units

The flow set point, measured gas flow and associated totalizer data is scaled directly in engineering units via digital interface commands.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 20 - SPECIFICATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACCURACY:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CALIBRATIONS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REPEATABILITY:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESPONSE TIME:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TEMPERATURE COEFFICIENT:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRESSURE COEFFICIENT:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPTIMUM GAS PRESSURE:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MAXIMUM GAS PRESSURE:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MAXIMUM DIFFERENTIAL PRESSURE:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MAX PRESSURE DROP:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GAS and AMBIENT TEMP:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNICATION INTERFACE:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OUTPUT SIGNALS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CIRCUIT PROTECTION:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MATERIALS IN-fluid CONTACT:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ATTITUDE SENSITIVITY:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONNECTIONS:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LEAK INTEGRITY:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRANSUDER INPUT POWER:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CALIBRATION OPTIONS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CE COMPLIANCE:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The selection of materials of construction, is the responsibility of the customer. The company accepts no liability.**
DFC26 Mass Flow Controller

DFC36 / 46 Mass Flow Controller

* FOR HIGH FLOW MASS FLOW CONTROLLERS
The following units of measure are supported: % of FS, mL/min, mL/hr, scfm, scfh, L/min, L/hr, lbs/hr, lbs/min, and one user defined unit of measure.

### Leak Integrity

$1 \times 10^{-9}$ smL/sec of Helium maximum to the outside environment.

### Balanced Power Supply

The DFC operates on ±15Vdc. The current requirements for the positive and negative power supplies are balanced such that the current in the power supply common connection is minimized. Maximum power consumption is 13.5 watts at ±15Vdc.

### TABLE 23 - MAXIMUM PRESSURE DROP FOR DFC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODEL NO.</th>
<th>MAX. FLOW (N2)</th>
<th>MAXIMUM PRESSURE DROP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[mm H₂O]</td>
<td>[psid]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFC 26</td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFC 36</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>7480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFC 46</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>12850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**TABLE 21 - FLOW RANGES FOR DFC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>Units [Nitrogen]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>0 to 10 mL/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>0 to 20 mL/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>0 to 50 mL/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>0 to 100 mL/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>0 to 200 mL/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>0 to 500 mL/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>0 to 1 L/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>0 to 2 L/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>0 to 5 L/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>0 to 10 L/min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE 22 - ACCESSORIES AND READOUTS FOR DFC**

- **CBL-DFC**: 25 pin D-connector with 6 ft. wire to computer port stripped, Branch 6ft. wire to customers power supply.
- **CBL-DFC-DPM-AIO**: Cable stripped for DFC with LCD jack and analog input/output.
- **CBLDFC-PROC**: 25 pin D-connector with 6ft. wire to 15 pin DM, Branch 6ft. wire to computer port stripped.
- **PS-DFC-110NA-5-S**: Power supply with 25 pin female D-connector 110/vac (±15Vdc.) Branch 6ft wire to computer port stripped /North America.
- **PS-DFC-230EU-5-S**: Power supply with 25 pin female D-connector 230/vac (±15Vdc.) Branch 6ft wire to computer port stripped /Europe.
- **PS-DFC-240UK-5-S**: Power supply with 25 pin female D-connector 240/vac (±15Vdc.) Branch 6ft wire to computer port stripped /United Kingdom.
- **PS-DFC-240AU-5-S**: Power supply with 25 pin female D-connector 240/vac (±15Vdc.) Branch 6ft wire to computer port stripped /Australia.
- **BCKUPDFC**: Digital panel meter / led backlight.
- **PS-DFC-110NA-5-S-D**: Power supply DFC 110/Vac ±15Vdc standard interface and LCD jack. (United States).
- **PS-DFC-110NA-5-A-D**: Power supply DFC 110/Vac ±15Vdc analog interface and LCD jack. (United States).
Cable Options

**Standard Cable (supplied with Transducer) CBL-DFC**

- 25 PINS
- 6 FEET
- 3 POWER SUPPLY
- 3 COMPUTER COMMUNICATION

**CBL-DFC-SDPROC**

- 25 PINS
- 6 FEET
- 15 PINS
- COMMAND MODULE PROC
- 3 COMPUTER COMMUNICATION

**PS-DFC-110NA-5-S 230EU /240UK /240AU**

- 25 PINS
- 6 FEET
- 3 COMPUTER COMMUNICATION
- TRANSFORMER
- 3 POWER 110/230/240V

**PS-DFC-110NA-5-A 230EU /240UK /240AU**

- 25 PINS
- 6 FEET
- 3 TRANSFORMER
- ANALOG SETPOINT
- ANALOG OUTPUT
- PURGE
- CLOSE
- RELAY
- OTHER SEE MANUAL
- 3 COMPUTER COMMUNICATION
- POWER 110/230/240V
**ORDERING INFORMATION DIGITAL MASS FLOW CONTROLLERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DFC</th>
<th>MODEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAX. FLOW (N₂)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>10 L/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>50 L/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>100 L/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATERIAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Stainless Steel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SEALS**
- V: Viton®
- B: Buna®
- E: EPR
- T: PTFE / Kalrez®

**Fittings**
- A: 1/4" Compression DFC 26, 36
- B: 1/8" Compression DFC 26
- C: 1/4" VCR® DFC 26, 36
- D: 3/8" Compression DFC 26, 36, 46
- H: 6mm Compression DFC 26, 36

**Connector**
- D: D Connector

**Display**
- N: No Display
- L: LCD Readout

**Power**
- 5: ±15 Vdc

**Input / Output Signal**
- C: 0-5Vdc/ 0-5Vdc
- D: 0-5Vdc/ 4-20mA
- E: 4-20mA/ 4-20mA
- F: 4-20mA/ 0-5Vdc

**Digital Interface**
- 2: RS232
- 5: RS485

**Example:** DFC36S-VADN5-C5 50 L/min [N₂] 20 psig

**Specify:** FLOW RANGE, GAS and PRESSURE.

DFC36 stainless steel, Viton® seals, 1/4" compression fittings, D Connector, No display, ±15 Vdc power, 0-5 Vdc/0-5 Vdc input output signal, RS485 digital interface.