



www.niobrara.com

News

Volume 1, Issue 1

Product Spotlight

Collaborative Automation Partner Program



Transparent[®]
Ready



MEB-RT

The **MEB** is a fully functional, bi-directional Modbus Plus™ to Ethernet bridge.

Devices on either network have access to the other through the **MEB-RT**. The network traffic is not limited to just I/O data, though, it can also be register data or programming commands. The **MEB** contains two Modbus Plus™ ports (DB9), two fully independent, configurable serial ports (DB9), and a 10BaseT Ethernet port (RJ45) on the bottom of the unit.

The **MEB** is finding its place in the industrial automation sector as more and more companies adopt Ethernet as a control network in addition to an information network. Many companies have in place extensive Ethernet infrastructures including cabling, repeaters, switches, hubs, network management and support. Many of these same companies have invested large sums of money developing their Modbus Plus™ networks, PLC programming software, SA-85 cards (Modbus Plus™ card for PCs), and engineering. The **MEB** provides the bridge between the two networks so that the Modbus Plus™ devices can be accessed from anywhere on the Ethernet network. The Programming stations on the Ethernet network are allowed to program the Modbus Plus™ PLC through the **MEB**. Modsoft®, Concept™, ProWORX®, and Unity® all have Modbus/TCP drivers that can route through the **MEB** to the PLCs on the Modbus Plus™ network. Likewise, HMI's using Modbus/TCP drivers can route through the **MEB** to access Modbus Plus™ devices. The MEB-RT is an ideal way to integrate Modbus Plus™ PLCs into your Modbus/TCP Ethernet.

Here is an example of a problem you may come across:

A company needs Ethernet access to several Quantum™ processors, one solution would be to install an Ethernet NOE in the local rack of each Quantum™ processor. A more cost effective solution would be to use a single **MEB-RT** to bridge the Ethernet and Modbus Plus™ networks since Quantum™ processors already have Modbus Plus™ ports.

In the application discussed the **MEB-RT** is used as a stand alone unit. In order to do this, the Niobrara **NRK2** will be required in addition to the **MEB-RT**. The **NRK2** is a single slot rack with a built in power supply.

For more information on any of the other many uses for the **MEB-RT**, call Niobrara R&D at 417-624-8918 and ask for Tech Support, or visit the website at www.niobrara.com. The product sheet for the **MEB-RT** can also be found [here](#).

In addition to its functionality as a Network bridge, the **MEB** can also act as:

- Data Concentrator
Store data in the 2,048 mailbox registers which are accessible through any port
- Ethernet Gateway or MUX
- Modbus Plus™ Gateway
- Ethernet NIM
- Ethernet Protocol Converter
- Serial Protocol Converter
Devices with different serial protocols can communicate on separate serial ports

Inside

Product Spotlight, Pg1

Niobrara Trivia, Pg1

Personnel, Pg2

FAQs, Pg2

New Products, Pg2

Niobrara Trivia

Name four applications for an EPE5-T.

Email newsletter@niobrara.com with your answer and contact information. Three correct responses will be drawn at random and receive a prize.

Niobrara Research & Development Corporation

www.niobrara.com

Personnel

Niobrara R&D Executive Changes

Niobrara Research and Development (NR&D) is pleased to announce the promotion of Scott Henson to President and the hiring of Chris Shore as Marketing Director.

Mr. Henson has worked for Niobrara since 1992 holding several positions ranging from Production Manager to Application Engineer. Most recently Scott has led the Technical Support Team. As President, Mr. Henson will maintain the leadership of the Technical Support department, but most importantly will now be responsible for the direction and vision for the Joplin, MO Company.

Mr. Shore has gained extensive experience in engineering and marketing during his career. As Niobrara's Marketing Director, he will be responsible for expanding NR&D's presence in its current markets while leading NR&D and its products to new markets.

Mark Sullivan, majority shareholder of Niobrara R&D stated, "I am looking forward to working with Scott and Chris in their new positions in the company. I have high expectations for both of them."

New Products

SCM1S Smart Cable - The all new **SCM1S** is a DB9 to Micro-1 cable with a miniature RS-232 converter built into the DB9 connector. Its most popular application will be connecting a personal computer COM: port to a Square D® or IDEC Micro-1 programmable controller. The **SCM1S** is replacing the SCM1DK. **List Price - \$239.00**

SCA2S Smart Cable - The **SCA2S** Smart Cable is a DB9 to FA2J cable with a miniature RS-232 converter built into the DB9 connector. This cable is designed to enable communication between the RS-232 communications port on a personal computer and the programmer port of an IDEC FA2J or FA3 series programmable controller. The **SCA2S** is replacing the SCA2DK. **List Price - \$239.00**

SC50S Smart Cable - The **SC50S** Smart Cable is a DB9 to Model 50 cable. It has a miniature RS-232 converter built into the DB9 connector. The **SC50S** is used to connect the communications port of a personal computer directly to the Model 50 without the need for an RIU, NLU, or SFI card. The **SC50S** is replacing the SC50DK. **List Price - \$239.00**

FAQs

Q: Where did you get the name Niobrara?

A: Our founder wanted a high-tech company and thought that people perceived all the high-tech companies are on the coasts. Being from the Midwest, and not wanting to move, he went looking for a coast.

In the late Cretaceous period the Midwest was covered by a shallow in-land sea. It's why Kansas and Nebraska are so flat. Today we call that sea the Niobrara Sea.

Being in Joplin, Missouri we are right on the border between the Great Plains and the Ozark Plateau and right on the coast of the Niobrara, we are just 65 Million years late.

So, when you hear the term Niobrara, think "High-tech Company on the Coast".

Niobrara Research & Development Corporation
P.O. Box 3418
Joplin, MO 64803
(800) 235-6723
(417) 624-8918
www.niobrara.com