

The Importance of LXI Compliance in Test Instrumentation

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For Pacific Power Source, a long time supplier of precision programmable AC power sources for use in both development and test applications, the use of industry standards has always been a key requirement when it comes to new product development. This is especially true now as customers shy away from proprietary products and protocols, out of fear of being locking to a sole vendor. Such was the case at the inception of a new technology platform that will be the bases for a wide range of high-end, all digitally controlled, programmable AC and DC power sources that started at Pacific Power few years ago.

The first product incarnation of this new architecture platform is the just launched AFX Series of 9kVA to 60kVA power sources. Using industry standards and protocols makes it much easier for our customers to integrate new platforms and products into both existing legacy systems as well as newly designed systems. Increasing budget constraints are driving the need to keep existing test systems going for an increasing period of time, often far beyond the original life-cycle plan. Being able to easily upgrade available power to meet ever increasing power demands is often a key hurdle to overcome. The industry leading power density of the new AFX Series enables a system integrator to do so now. Packing **15000VA** of power in a 4U rack space represents a four to five fold leap in power density for our industry. In addition to its core power capabilities, the AFX supports the following industry standards:

- USB and LAN interfaces standard
- LXI compliance
- Expanded functionality, embedded web server for browser access and control
- IVI Class Instrument Drivers
- SCPI Programming Command syntax
- An available legacy GPIB option for situations where LXI is not possible, although this is extremely rare nowadays

Supporting widely adopted industry standards like LXI is important for both the manufacturer and end-user. Standards like LXI create commonality of test software deployment and reduced dependency on sole-source and or proprietary hardware, locking customers in. In case of the Pacific AFX, it also means future product lines derived from the same platform will be uniform in operation and remote control functionality.

The AFX power source can be controlled through an intuitive front panel with a large full-color LCD display if LXI remote control is not used.

All AFX models offer AC output, DC output and AC+DC output modes. Voltage, waveform, current, power, phase and frequency are all programmable. Three phase, split phase and single phase output configurations are supported and multiple units can be paralleled in a master / auxiliary configuration for power requirements above 15kVA.



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