

TECH



TIPS

THE PCI BUS IS A BETTER SOLUTION FOR EVERY APPLICATION

Because the PCI bus blows away the limitations that were keeping data acquisition systems below 1MHz, many people think that they should only consider using PCI-bus cards if they have high-speed applications. The reality is that the PCI bus is actually a good solution for all data acquisition users, no matter what your sampling speed.

Consider these two points before deciding on your next system:

- 1. Obsolescence.** While industrial and scientific PC systems still feature large numbers of ISA slots, new desktop PCs come with few to no ISA slots, & a few PCI slots. The current trend in PC motherboards is toward eliminating ISA slots.
- 2. Technological Superiority.** The ISA bus was designed in 1982 by IBM for 8-bit data paths, and then a 16-bit section was added in 1985 to create the 2-connector ISA slot, and never significantly improved. Its huge dominance of market share has kept it alive much longer than expected.

The newer, vastly superior PCI-bus technology will make life much easier for data acquisition systems developers.