

# Why Open Source PLCs Are Here To Stay

By **Ivan Ducic**, Controllino



From small DIY projects to large industrial applications – PLCs that work on an open source software base changed the way how tech professionals do their control and automation.

They don't fully lock you in to a specific vendor and enable you to customize the control and automation process of your specific application possible.

One company has mastered the skill of producing software open source PLCs exceptionally well. You may have heard of CONTROLLINO — the bestselling PLC with an open source software base on the market. Not even five years ago we launched our first CONTROLLINO. Since then, we had an amazing journey and rose from a small startup to a full-blown company with high-ranking customers and their fields of applications:

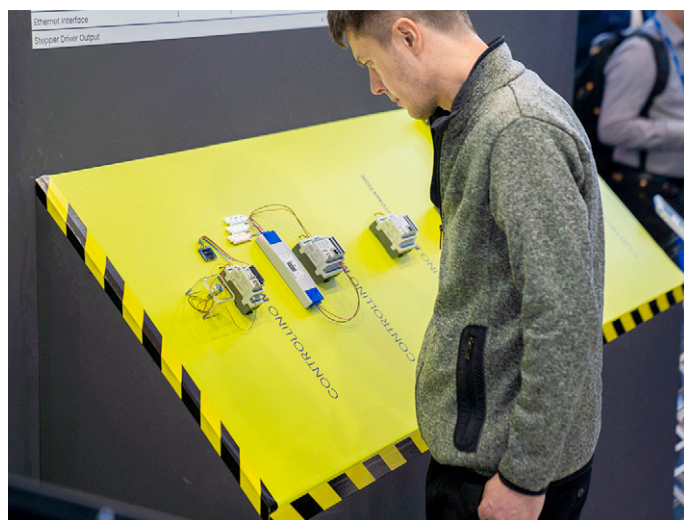
- transportation: Volkswagen, Hyperloop (Elon Musk), Boeing;
- pharmaceuticals: BIOHUB (Chan Zuckerberg), Novartis;
- education: Massachusetts Institute of Technology;
- science: Max Planck Institute, Fraunhofer Institute;
- production: Oculus, Flextronics.

But CONTROLLINO's prestigious status doesn't come as a surprise: this one-of-a-kind PLC is used so often because it offers a perfect mix of safety, flexibility and power, making it an ideal solution for all controlling and automation needs in all environments.

With the simplicity and flexibility of open source ecosystems like Arduino, users can drastically decrease project development time and cost, and focus on what's most important: the project. But of course, you wouldn't use an Arduino in your industrial plant. That's where CONTROLLINO comes in — it's like an Arduino that's specifically tailored for industrial use. With CE and IEC61131 certifications, rugged DIN-rail mountable case and lots of options specifically designed for industrial

applications, like 0-10 V analogue I/O, 12-V or 24-V digital I/O, relays with up to 16 amps rating and more, it's more than suitable for any professional application.

But what CONTROLLINOs are actually available on the market right now and what will be the next products to launch soon? Let's explore the topic a bit deeper. First of all, let's start with the available products. We currently have five model ranges, each available with or without 5-V pin headers. From smallest to largest:



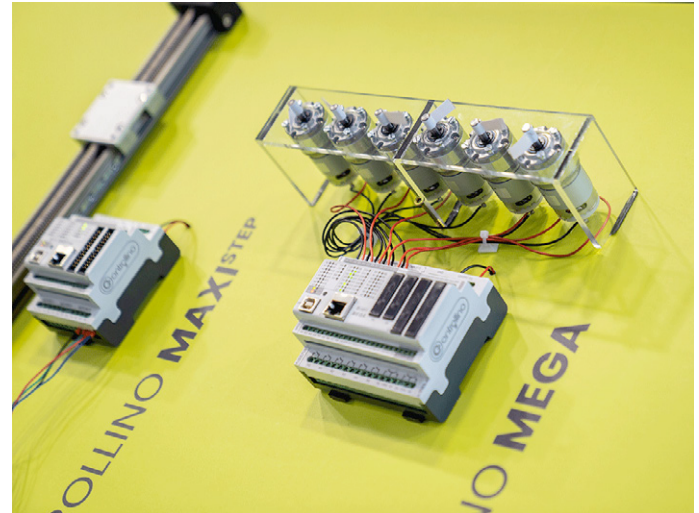
### CONTROLLINO MINI

The MINI is the smallest child in our CONTROLLINO family. But no worries – it's still a big boy when it comes to the number of inputs and outputs (8 each). The incredible size to I/O ratio makes the MINI one of the most compact and versatile PLCs on the market.



### CONTROLLINO MEGA

The MEGA is the giant in our CONTROLLINO range. If you are doing big and complex projects, the CONTROLLINO MEGA is the perfect fit. With its countless input and output channels and high maximum current of 30 A, you can handle any automation and controlling project with ease.



### CONTROLLINO MAXI

The MAXI is the bestselling model in our CONTROLLINO range. It is the perfect compromise between compact size and input and output availability. The core competence is its flexibility.

#### CONTROLLINO MAXI Automation

The MAXI Automation is the version of CONTROLLINO MAXI specifically tailored to the needs of automation specialists! It offers 0-10 V analogue I/O, for example.

#### CONTROLLINO MAXI Power

The MAXI Power is the latest in the CONTROLLINO MAXI family, specifically for those who need strong 16 amps relays! As the other MAXIs, it is the perfect compromise between compact size and a huge number of inputs and outputs.



As you can see, there is a perfect CONTROLLINO for every project size and type. But now, let's look a bit more into the near future. What if you need even more flexibility than already offered? What if you even want to create your own PLC based on your exact requirements and specifications? Well, look no further. Introducing CONTROLLINO myPLC — a whole new type of CONTROLLINO, fully customizable to any extent.

First things first: other PLCs on the market often don't have all the I/O channels you need. To solve this problem, you need to buy expensive modules – and even then, you have to live with a fixed number of inputs and outputs. How can we solve this problem?

With CONTROLLINO myPLC you can only put the components into your CONTROLLINO that you really need and want. You can choose between different I/O types, voltage levels, specialized drivers and more — directly from our myPLC Online Customizer. That's a whole new level of customization and never seen before in the PLC market.

The online customizer is available right now for testing purposes, so you can get a feel of the power and flexibility of such a solution. The product itself will launch early 2020 – be sure to subscribe to our newsletter on [www.controllino.biz](http://www.controllino.biz) to get the latest updates and notification as soon as myPLC launches. ◀

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