

16 Helpsheet



*World Leaders in Computer Controlled Testing
Systems for Geotechnical Engineers and Geologists*

Hardware

Computer

GDS Recommended Computer Specifications

1. Introduction

GDS software is now Windows based, taking advantage of the ease of use of a Graphical User Interface to perform computer controller testing. The software is quite complex and therefore run best on a modern PC.

Any PC bought after the millennium should be quick enough and have enough memory to run GDS windows based software although on older computers the software can run frustratingly slowly. If considering buying a new PC for your system, the cheapest you can find will happily run the software.

The main requirement for a modern PC is that it has the required communication ports for the hardware that you are going to connect to it.

The minimum specification PC recommended by GDS is as follows:

300MHz Pentium II or equivalent
64MB of memory
CD drive
200MB Free hard disk space

Hardware used for testing can communicate with the computer via a variety of protocols. These are RS232 serial communication, IEEE488.2 parallel communication and USB.

RS232 communication will need one or more free serial ports.

IEEE communication needs a National Instruments IEEE card. This can connect to the computer internally using a PCI slot or externally using a USB port.

USB devices connect to the computer using one or more USB ports. USB is a relatively new technology and many older PCs do not have USB ports.