16 **Helpsheet**

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

The main requirement for a modern PC is that is 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:

XP service pack 3 or above
SVGA graphics or above
2GB of memory
CD drive
1GB Free hard disk space
USB ports

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 (or USB to serial port converters)

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.