

# AC Motor Switches Cut Cost-of-Control for Competitive Appliance Markets

STMicroelectronics has unveiled new AC switches that are suited for controlling appliance motors. These AC switches can be used without many of the additional components normally needed to ensure smooth switching and provide protection. The devices will allow one-stop design for heavy-duty home appliances such as washing machines or refrigerators. Consequent ruggedness will lower the end products' total cost of ownership. The latest-generation ACST4, ACST6 and ACST8 switches include a power triac delivering enhanced commutation performance to turn the motor off without requiring external components to suppress voltage transients and to ensure reliable switching. Unlike conventional triacs, the switches also integrate protection against surge voltages up to 2kV on the AC line, in accordance with the international IEC 61000-4-5. In addition, the ACST410 and ACST610 switches have a low trigger current of 10mA, allowing direct control by a CMOS device such as a microcontroller without requiring a buffer or driver.

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