

Seamless Device Integration: Making a Difference in the Process Industries

The Rockwell Automation and Endress+Hauser alliance provides tools that help reduce process integration costs.

Since the early '90s as an Encompass Partner, Endress+Hauser has been collaborating with Rockwell Automation® to deliver best-in-class measurement, automation and information solutions to help customers succeed. In May of 2005, Endress+Hauser became a Strategic Alliance partner, indicative of even greater cooperation. The alliance has focused on three key strategic initiatives: technology innovation, integrated asset management and coordinated engineering services.

As such, the companies are involved in joint research and development as well as fieldbus interoperability testing. In addition, they have jointly established performance measures that are verified through the completion of common test procedures.

To date, 50 Endress+Hauser devices have been evaluated. An Interoperability Statement provided by the companies reflects assurance that the Endress+Hauser field device meets the Rockwell Automation Integrated Architecture™ interoperability performance measures as jointly established by the companies.

Recently, Rockwell Automation and Endress+Hauser introduced new tools that allow faster system engineering, reduced risks and protection of plant assets. The tools integrate Endress+Hauser field devices and the Rockwell Automation PlantPAx™ Process Automation System, employing open, standard technology at every level.

For example, for the controller-level network, Common Industrial Protocol™ (CIP)-based networks such as EtherNet/IP are used to provide enterprise connectivity. Process device communication protocols such



as HART, Foundation Fieldbus and Profibus PA deliver device intelligence. This preferred integration allows for the creation of a cost-effective and scalable process control solution for a variety of industry applications. Integration documents for all of these protocols can be expected in 2009.

The companies' alliance helps reduce integration costs throughout engineering, commissioning and start-up. It helps manufacturers optimise plant availability and output as well as traceability to meet regulatory demands. In addition, it helps manufacturers control product quality and consistency and enable predictive maintenance through intelligent devices.

The tools are available for the most commonly used Endress+Hauser process instruments, including level, flow, pressure, temperature and analytical. They include pre-engineered controller code, preconfigured operator faceplates and integration documentation.

For example, directly from the instruments, faceplates provide a tag name, description, message/label, engineering units, zero and span, and analog fault status. HART PV (first, second, third) and HART PV fault status are also provided, as is diagnostic information. The faceplates can be configured to provide modes and alarms. What's more, Add-On Instructions

(AOIs) allow for a two-way exchange of data between the faceplates and the Rockwell Automation ControlLogix controller. Integration documentation includes details on the field instrument, control systems and specifications.

Device integration also contributes to better asset management. According to Kevin Norris, Rockwell Automation segment manager, device integration, "We're providing key diagnostic information from the device so customers can interpret error codes and warnings to improve service and maintenance."

The benefits of device integration tools are evident throughout the project lifecycle. For instance, the time required to engineer a system is reduced significantly with the device integration tools. In addition, deploying proven device integration eliminates many requirements for special training to perform system setup. With extended diagnostic capabilities, operations and maintenance personnel are better able to monitor device performance, identify faults and take corrective actions for increased operational performance. AT

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