

Automation Risk Assessment

Assure optimal system performance and minimize costly downtime

1
DISCOVERY



2
ASSESSMENT



3
ASSURANCE





UNDERSTANDING YOUR RISKS FOR AUTOMATION DOWNTIME

Many thousands of older Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC's) and other automation equipment continue to deliver tremendous value every day around the world. With the proper care and environment, their reliability and performance levels have remained high for many years. So high, in fact, that their reliability may be taken for granted. But as with any machines, there is a limit to the life of automation controllers, and to the availability of spare parts. Over time, even the highest quality PLC's will see reliability reduced as internal components such as semi-conductors, electrolytic capacitors, and memory chips slowly degrade due to use, environment and age. One day, they will fail. And one day, they will be difficult to replace.

As the leading GE authorized PLC support center in North America for repairs, parts and service, we at CIMTEC understand older PLC component life issues and the implications for uptime. 30 years of experience in providing critical PLC parts and support to GE customers has allowed us to assemble a tremendous amount of information on PLC system failures across a broad range of live applications. Today, we use this information to help many of our customers understand and predict their unique risks regarding potential system downtime.

The Automation Risk Assessment is designed to help you avoid downtime by accurately pinpointing and mitigating risks before unplanned downtime occurs. Through a careful analysis of your PLC's unique performance requirements, equipment type, environmental conditions and other factors, we will evaluate your total system and provide a detailed plan to safeguard your operations. In the process, you'll gain useful knowledge - and assurance - regarding your PLC's condition, remaining life and options for maintaining peak performance for years to come.

**If you're looking to answer the question
"HOW CAN I AVOID UNSCHEDULED DOWNTIME?"
CIMTEC's Risk Assessment is designed for you.**

1



DISCOVERY

The Risk Assessment is offered to your organization to assure optimal system performance and to minimize costly downtime.

The process starts with a brief call to schedule the on-site technicians trip to your facility. We'll cover what will be needed by the tech when he arrives, and the general process steps involved.

During the actual site visit, a thorough evaluation of your facilities automation systems and spare parts inventory will be performed. We will identify specific system components and available backup parts, documenting their age, type, quantity and system application. We'll examine your programming backup availability and storage process, capture critical factory environmental data, measure application load on each system, and review maintenance practices and other related issues that can impact uptime reliability.



2



ASSESSMENT

Information gathered during the site visit will be analyzed for risk by our team of technical experts. The process takes place in several phases: First, automation equipment classes and components are analyzed against our in-house benchmark database on component life-cycles. Next, remaining life estimates for specific systems and parts are reviewed to establish future reliability of equipment for each of your critical production processes. After that, firmware levels, emergency parts access, equipment environment, and operational demands are all added to establish an overall picture of the nature, location and magnitude of risks to your operations.

3

ASSURANCE

Risks to operations from your automation systems can be roughly divided into three categories:

1. Risk of system failure
2. Risk in your ability to recover from system failure through access to parts and support
3. Risks from the impact of costly downtime on your operations

Our final Risk Assessment report addresses the first two, so you can fully understand the third.

After an in-depth analysis, the Risk Assessment report for your facility is delivered in both hard copy and electronic versions. The assessment is designed to provide an easy to read, easy to explain overview of key risk considerations, with detailed analysis and back-up information to support conclusions.

The final report will provide you with several important views relative to automation risks:

- A clear picture of the remaining life for key systems.
- A direct indication of risks within specific areas of factory operations.
- Specific strategies for optimizing your automation equipment life, that ensures prompt system recovery in the event of unexpected downtime.

The Automation Risk Assessment has proven itself a valuable route to “peace of mind” for managers tasked with eliminating automation downtime.



WHAT SOME OF OUR CUSTOMERS HAVE TO SAY

“The Risk Assessment provided by CIMTEC was very beneficial and helped us identify some surplus equipment we no longer needed. CIMTEC’s efforts helped us optimize our spare parts supply.”

—SHANE LAMP, Facilities Manager, Ajax Rolled Ring

“Your conversion of our obsolete GE PLCs at our wastewater treatment plant to the new GE RX3is was seamless. We appreciate your expertise and commitment.”

—ROBERT AVERA, Principal Engineer Rancho Water



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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