

# THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO



**QUALITROL**  
INTERNATIONAL

A Division of CIMTEC



## GE GENIUS

## END OF LIFE



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# GE's Genius Is Retiring: A Look at These Great Modules

When GE introduced their Genius line of I/O modules in 1985, these modules offered automation advantages that other components couldn't.

These benefits included predictable operations for PLC systems, accelerated troubleshooting and diagnostics, shorter wiring routes, and fewer system failures. Today, countless industries still rely on Genius I/O modules and bus controllers for reliable PLC function and distributed control of factory floors.

In November 2016, after 30 years of Genius greatness and 5 years of Mature status, GE announced its official Last Time Buy notice for both Genius I/O Blocks and Genius Bus Controllers.

## The GE Genius Legacy

These revolutionary I/O systems for PLCs featured easy installation, sturdiness, and intelligence. Even in the event of a network or CPU failure, system operation was still maintained with Genius.

The Genius modules went global and were used in a variety of applications, from mining and steel to car manufacturing. It's no surprise that many plants still have Genius I/O modules installed.

While Genius continued to play a crucial role in plant functioning for many types of industries, in 2011, GE notified customers that they were changing their lifecycle status of Genius from Active to Mature. This included Genius I/O Blocks, Genius Bus Controllers, and Genius Communication Modules.

GE continued to offer the Genius line of products long after expected. Mature status designates that the product be available to order new for a minimum of 2 years after status change. 5 years later, GE is finally phasing out their Genius line.

GE's decision to stop producing Genius wasn't taken lightly; however, GE had its reasons for retiring Genius in order to deliver on their promise of advancing operations and focusing on improved automation connectivity.

# Why Genius Is Going Obsolete

Although GE has evolved the Genius line to have more capabilities and better technology, Genius has been falling behind when it comes to keeping up with newer systems. GE has been investing in newer technology to advance and integrate system communication.

These include Ethernet-based systems including those with PROFINET adaptors. Not only does this result in access to many devices over a single network, but also better scalability when it comes to system architectures. In turn, an Ethernet-based system can reduce downtime without dramatically altering wiring systems or application codes.

All current GE I/O products have PROFINET adaptors to accommodate Ethernet communications. By taking advantage of Ethernet cabling, you can also reap the benefits of the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT). This means constructive data is easily accessible through machine software and device connectivity is dramatically improved.

Taking advantage of newer technology by migrating your PLC or simply transitioning Genius to an Active product is huge when it comes to the IIoT. This is because the data you receive and analyze allows you to make information-based, real-time choices to improve operations.

Using this gathered data to determine how your processes are achieved enables you to create better efficiency among machines and people. Companies that use IIoT are generating enhanced process control and eliminating downtime with this technology.

Although Genius will no longer be available for purchase or support from GE, you still have time to purchase Genius before it officially becomes unavailable.

## Last Time to Get Genius

On June 1, 2017, Genius I/O and all its accessories will be officially discontinued and not be available for purchase from GE anymore. The official Last Time Buy notice has been issued and all orders must be placed before March 31, 2017 with orders being shipped by June 1st.

For Genius Bus Controllers, these products have been considered Mature since January 2014 and will be discontinued this year. Your orders need to be placed by March 15, 2017 and must ship by December 2017.

After these dates, you'll no longer be able to rely on GE to support your existing Genius products. This doesn't mean you won't be able to continuing using your Genius line of products, however.

Fortunately for Genius users, there are several options for customers assessing their future needs of Genius I/O modules.

## What the Future Holds

Since Genius modules and bus controllers play such a crucial role in factory functions for many GE customers, being able to support your Genius products or else replace them is critical.

Whether you want to keep your Genius modules to support your existing systems or migrate your PLC to the newest technology, Qualitrol International can help. We offer our customers complete Genius support from manuals and documents to repairs and remanufactured parts. If you're concerned about the implications of keeping your Genius setup, we can conduct a risk assessment to determine where your best potential lies.

Although GE will no longer support your Genius operations, Qualitrol has Genius users covered. We fully support your Genius line of products and when you eventually choose to migrate, we plan and implement the entire process to make it easier.

Are you concerned about Genius' end-of-life transition or do you have questions? Contact Qualitrol for support or a risk assessment to be thoroughly prepared for the discontinuation of this product.



**GET STARTED NOW**

# How to Keep Genius Alive

Your legacy PLC supports Genius I/O modules. Your setup has worked for years, and can continue to work despite the discontinuation of this great product.

Knowing what to do if a failure occurs when keeping Genius modules is imperative to keeping your machines running. In order to keep Genius alive, you need to have a support system in place.

When you work with the automation experts at Qualitrol, you're partnering with an industry leader that can help support you long after Genius goes obsolete. If you choose to keep Genius, we can fully support you with parts, expert advice, manuals, documents, and repairs.

## Remanufactured Genius Components

If you're looking to save money on your Genius parts, remanufactured components present an attractive option.

When you shop for remanufactured Genius parts with Qualitrol, you have the confidence of buying products that have been rigorously tested to factory specifications. All of our remanufactured components from Genius come with a 2-year warranty so you'll know our parts are verified and ready to work for you.

In fact, we test all of our remanufactured Genius components to OEM specifications and test them in real-world, functional situations to ensure they'll work.

For a price that's well below new with a warranty that can't be beat, you can continue to support your Genius products with our tried-and-true remanufactured parts.

## Obsolete and New Genius Parts

Our selection at Qualitrol contains millions of dollars' worth of inventory and thousands of components so you can easily find just what you need.

From hard-to-find Genius components to brand new parts for Genius to OEM parts, we have everything you need to ensure you never have to go without.

With Genius' imminent retirement, having a go-to place for parts and support is invaluable. With modules and bus controllers that originated 30 years ago, having something that dated in stock ready to be shipped to you sounds impossible—but Qualitrol makes it happen for our customers every day.

We have all Genius models in stock regardless of whether you're looking for remanufactured or new components. To keep your Genius line of products alive, you can trust Qualitrol to provide the parts you need in a timely manner.

## Certified In-House Repair Experts

At Qualitrol, our technicians are what make our vast inventory of remanufactured parts and repairs so great. Every one of our technicians is trained and certified to provide the absolute best service for your Genius line of products.

When you need repairs for Genius, our in-house technicians inspect, repair, and clean your component to look better than new. Every part is shipped back to you after being tested and hand-cleaned with a data sheet to show you exactly what's been done and how your part is functioning.

Our 2-year warranty is also provided with every remanufactured part you buy and with every repair we do for your Genius products.

# Sticking with Genius?

## How Qualitrol Can Help

However, the risk of keeping Genius after it goes obsolete has people wondering: where will I get parts and support?

Although GE will no longer be supporting Genius products, you can still support your legacy system and Genius modules with Qualitrol.

Our support staff can accommodate any need you have when it comes to automation: from technical support over the phone to products to providing on-site support, we're ready to help you maximize the lifespan of your machinery.

If now isn't the time to migrate your PLC and you're sticking with Genius I/O modules, we have you covered. As of June 1, 2017, GE will be officially discontinuing the Genius line of products. This means you won't be able to get products or support from GE Automation and Controls in regards to your Genius products.

Genius has stuck around for over 30 years for a reason: they're great modules. Keeping your Genius I/O setup is the right choice in certain situations. With our help, we can guide you to fully care your Genius modules and even keep a future migration in mind when the time is right.

What services and products does Qualitrol offer to keep your Genius modules working?

### Risk Assessment

Qualitrol performs an on-site assessment of your current Genius setup to uncover risks.

Not only do we assess your Genius products, but we also talk with you to understand your current plans—if any—for conducting an upgrade. These [risk assessments](#) evaluate your current stock of Genius components as well as quote any additional spares you need to keep Genius alive and running.

Ensuring you have Genius components in stock means you're covered for the time period that makes the most sense for you. Whether you want to start migration away from Genius immediately or two years down the line, be prepared to support your systems.



We talk about all this and more during our assessment of your Genius line of products to make certain you're prepared to keep Genius running and evaluate what your risk for keeping Genius is based on your current setup.

Part of our risk assessment is putting in place strategic steps for a future plan for your migration when and if you decide to upgrade. Put steps into place to transition your product if you want to upgrade. Together, we can help you decide what makes the most sense for your business when considering migration.

## Engineering Support

From everyday questions to emergency support, our engineers are available to respond quickly to your situation. We know how crucial it is to get your systems up and running again. We're committed to solving even the most complex issues promptly and safely.

Our [engineering services](#) are backed by industry-specific expertise and an extensive inventory of equipment and tools to properly troubleshoot any issue you have, regardless of the device. Whether the support you need only warrants a phone call or if you need on-site services, we're here to deliver our expertise and efficiently solve your problem.

Our technicians are available to come on-site to help with wiring, component change-outs, and initial power up and testing. Having an engineer there in the event that something goes wrong can be hugely beneficial with Qualitrol's support options.

## New and Remanufactured Parts

We provide both [new and remanufactured parts](#) typically same-day from our vast stock of products. This means that Qualitrol can operate anywhere from being a knowledgeable distributor to an extension of your engineering team. We lend our 30 years of experience to help you achieve your best every day.

Together, we solve your manufacturing challenges to help you increase productivity and efficiency in how you operate. We ensure that you have the replacement parts you need—PLC boards, CPUs, and modules are ready to ship to you without delay.

Our inventory stocks over \$10 million dollars in parts and specializes in hard-to-find PLC parts. No matter what you're searching for—whether it's decades old or the latest technology—we keep most products in stock. If you're not sure what component you need or if you need a replacement for your current component, we can help you make the best choice to optimize operations.

# Future Migration

Changing hardware in any facility needs to be carefully planned and implemented with confidence. Qualitrol can assist in these types of projects in addition to providing support as needed—we're experienced in helping our customers in all stages of project implementation.

When you decide you're ready to migrate your PLC, you need experts who can fully design and carry out this impactful transition. We have 30 years of experience helping thousands of PLC customers successfully migrate to the latest technology.

We can take your current project files and upgrade them to a RX3i platform. Our engineers evaluate any potential issues that may arise in the migration process to determine areas of risk or areas that'll require additional support or attention. We develop a migration strategy that meets your budgetary or timeframe needs.

Whether we provide a phased approach to the migration or completely replace your current equipment will be up to you. We totally customize your migration plan to your factory as well as your future goals to create a successful migration.

Qualitrol is your partner when you choose to keep your Genius modules running and in the event that you choose to migrate. Let's talk about your options.

A risk assessment can ensure you're completely prepared in the event of a system or network failure. Our engineers can offer on-site or over-the-phone support to solve your problem as quickly as possible. And when you need new or remanufactured parts, we've got what you need in stock.

When Genius goes obsolete, turn to Qualitrol for continued products and support!

**GET STARTED NOW**

# ABOUT QUALITROL

Since first establishing its business in 1987, Qualitrol has become one of the industry's largest, most progressive, responsive and trusted automation products and engineering solutions providers. Headquartered in Charlotte, NC, Qualitrol has offices in strategic locations throughout North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

Over the years, Qualitrol has developed comprehensive and industry-specific expertise, services and products in customized industrial automation. Qualitrol's staff offers wide-ranging expertise from engineering to repair to sales, and is conversant in the latest technology, including networking, open architecture, safety, and enterprise systems.

Qualitrol's long-term relationships with high-quality manufacturers, technological prowess, and track record of developing exceptional customized solutions for its customers sets it apart in the global automation marketplace.

While the world has changed significantly since 1987, Qualitrol's philosophy remains the same. Qualitrol is dedicated to helping its customers succeed through technology, and to developing the best value, performance and innovation in its industry.