

Newsletter

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April 2014



AT A GLANCE...

AUTOMATION IT TO COMPLETE A TUV FUNCTIONAL SAFETY AUDIT

Automation IT has been chosen by Energex to complete a TUV Functional Safety Audit of their South East Queensland based landfill generation sites. The project is well advanced and will follow the guidelines outlined in IEC/ AS 61508 with particular reference to IEC / AS 62061 and ISO 13849 where necessary. The audit covered all electro-mechanical systems including the environment surrounding the generators, the confined space inside the generator modules and the hazards potentially created by the systems on site.

The achievement of functional safety for any complex process or machine is well explained in the standards, however it is not something to be taken lightly or attempted without having access to suitably trained TUV certified functional safety engineers. Luckily Automation IT has two such engineers and the following scope is being delivered for Energex:

- Completion of risk assessment to IEC61508/62061 to determine required SIL per safety loop.
- Audit existing system to determine current safety status and SIL (if any)
- Preparation of statement of recommendation to achieve required SIL.
- Preparation of functional safety plan (FSP)
- Perform design and calculations as per FSP and standards
- Verify design as per verification plan
- Procure parts and arrange installation
- Validate design as per validation plan
- Issue statement of certification to the applicable standards for each site.



Specific attention was given to the potential methane hazard where a failure of the extraction system and leaky equipment could create a build-up of methane inside the module. This was addressed with the design and implementation of a SIL2 rated functional safety system.

It can be a minefield trying to interpret the relevant safety standards and ensuring that your processes and equipment comply to the requirements of the standards and legislation. There is a common misconception in industry that simply hard wiring an E-Stop circuit or making everything 'Cat3' will do the job, but unfortunately this is just an accident waiting to happen. To truly ensure your site and machinery is safe and compliant requires specialist knowledge that most electrical contractors or integrators simply cannot provide. Automation IT has extensive experience in this area and can ensure your plant and machinery is safe both now and for its entire useful life.

For a free inspection and advice please contact our office on 07 3299 3844 or email sales@automationit.com

IT UPDATE

Is your computer still running XP?

On April 8 2014 Microsoft ceased support for the Windows XP operating system. This means security updates will no longer be developed and technical support will no longer be available for the legacy operating system which was first released in 2001. Yet it is estimated 27.7% of the world's computers are still running on XP, and a large proportion of these are industrial computers that are separate from the corporate network.

How does this affect you? Your computer will continue to run however any security flaws or vulnerabilities that are discovered within the operating system will not be resolved.

What does the end of XP mean for you?

This raises security issues for control system applications with internet access as they may be vulnerable to attack from malware or malicious hackers that are able to gain access through non-resolved glitches. Unfortunately, the solution is not as simple as upgrading the Operating System as the installed software on the machine may not be able to run on a newer OS and so may also require to be upgraded or modified.

If this applies to your site, contact Automation IT today to discuss whether your system is at risk and if so, we can develop a deployment plan to ensure your SCADA computer is able to continue to run in a safe and secure environment.

More News...

Volume 15, Issue No.1

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OTHER NEWS

Automation IT is now a Registered Partner of Cisco!



We Sell Cisco

Automation IT has recently expanded its network capabilities by becoming an official Registered Partner of Cisco, this allows us to supply, configure and implement Cisco solutions in control system applications.

Cisco is a leading provider of networking hardware and IP based telephony systems, it is also a leading provider of specialist software solutions and consistently ranked as one of the world's leading networking companies.

Recently, Cisco has been expanding into the ruggedized and industrial networking space with the increased demand for industrial networks to connect to enterprise networks and the internet.

To add to its expansive product offering, Cisco has released a specialised product range specifically designed for extreme temperatures and rugged conditions but still utilising Cisco's proven backend software. These products provide integrated security and easy manageability, creating truly intelligent, industrial networks.

Contact us for any further information or to discuss any upcoming network opportunities at your plant!



Staff Christmas Function

The Automation IT Christmas function was held at Novotel Twin Waters on the Sunshine Coast. Staff and their families were treated to an overnight stay with two days of fun in the sun including beach cricket, body surfing and BBQ with use of all the resort facilities. The main event was a spectacular buffet dinner with live entertainment extending into early hours of the morning for some. Sunglasses a plenty were seen at the indulgent buffet breakfast the morning after.



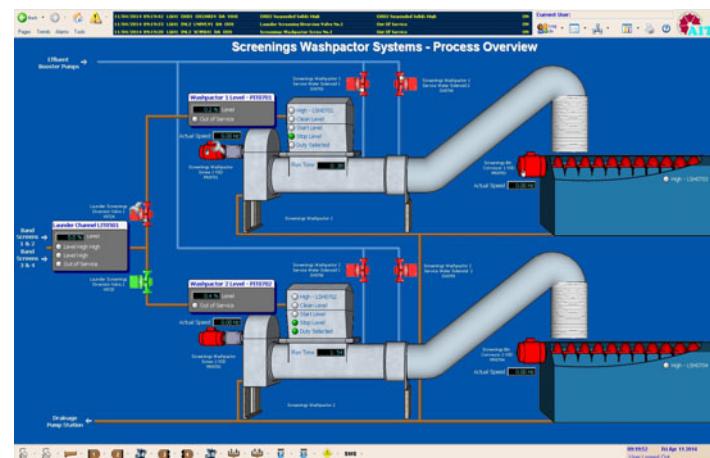
PROJECT NEWS

Loganholme WPCC Inlet Works

The Loganholme Water Pollution Control Centre is now operating via the new Inlet Works with final commissioning successfully completed.

Although a few mechanical issues with some vendor equipment were encountered, the control system works have been completed without a hitch.

The below image shows a sample of the high quality SCADA graphics the operators can now enjoy.



Unitywater SCADA Upgrade

Another 109 stations have been added to Automation IT's scope with works continuing through to mid-2014.

Cairns Hospital NCS

The Cairns Hospital emergency power control system has been commissioned and is now fully operational.

Perth Children's Hospital EMS

Design has commenced for the Energy Monitoring System at Perth's Children's Hospital.

Other Industry Events:

OZ Water—Brisbane Convention Centre

29th April to 1st May

Water Industry Operators Association QLD Conference

4th & 5th June

Mining Electrical Safety Conference

7th to 9th July

NEW APPOINTMENTS

FAISAL SHAH

Faisal joined Automation IT in the role of Systems Engineer. Faisal holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and has also completed a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from The University of Queensland



BRENDAN STACK

Brendan has joined Automation IT in the role of Systems Engineer in the Perth office. Brendan is a degree qualified engineer who also possesses a trade qualification as an electrician. Brendan has experience across a vast range of industries including pharmaceutical, oil & gas, infrastructure and power generation.



AARON TRUEMAN

Aaron joined Automation IT in the role of Project Engineer. Aaron has a background in industrial electrical and control systems in Canada and the United States as well as high voltage switchgear in Germany, where he recently moved from.



Congratulations to all new team members!

Automation IT is looking forward to a long and prosperous working relationship.

PRODUCT NEWS

GE QuickPanel+ OI/HMI/PLC Process Controller

The GE QuickPanel+ is 3 devices in 1: an OI/HMI, a PLC/process controller, and a data historian. Using serial and Ethernet connectivity, it can be used with controllers and I/O from multiple vendors for swift and smooth implementation. Configuration is easy - a common database reduces development time by eliminating the need to re-enter tag names, and an extensive library of preconfigured animation objects is provided.

The GE QuickPanel+ comes in two sizes, 7" and 12", and offers the flexibility needed to match specific customer or application requirements. With faster processing speeds and more memory, the GE QuickPanel+ delivers high-performance control, visualization, and data historian capabilities to maximize productivity and cost efficiency. The capacitive, multi-touch screen is built to last in an industrial environment, yet is as sensitive as the latest smartphone or tablet - even if the user is wearing gloves.



CHE CALDWELL

Che is an Electrical and Instrumentation engineer with more than 12 years diverse practical experience with electrical, automation and instrumentation systems, in power generation and mineral processing. He enjoys the challenges of a dynamic engineering market and looks forward to delivering successful projects for Automation IT