7 Features of Digitally Optimized Controllers

Not all “modern” controllers are digitally enabled. Here’s how to make sure your choice will provide optimal ROI today and tomorrow.

Upgrading your controller is not as straightforward as it used to be. Features and technological advancements vary, even among brands that consider their controllers “modern.” Manufacturers that don’t make the right controller choice will miss out on competitive advantages available today and will experience diminishing ROI as they upgrade production assets for digitalization — the merging of the virtual and real worlds using applications and technologies, such as data analytics, the cloud and the Internet of Things.

To be sure you’re not stuck with a controller that won’t allow your plant to modernize and become more efficient, your controller choice should offer these seven essential future-focused features:

1. Integrated No-Programming System Diagnostics
   • What To Look For: Easy-to-understand faults are automatically displayed on the HMI, web server and controller, allowing a line operator to diagnose the problem before leaving the tool crib.
   • ROI Contribution: Efficient fault analysis and fast troubleshooting cuts commissioning times and minimizes production downtime.
An opportunity to replace a controller is also an opportunity to benefit from the competitive advantages of digitalization and move your plant closer to optimal efficiency for more profitable performance. Don’t make the mistake of assuming all “new” controllers will come with the most advanced features available. This checklist can help you identify a controller that will continue to return benefits long into the future.