Self-Assessment for PLC Migrations

Understanding the age and lifecycle of your control system and related field devices is typically a task that is not managed on a regular basis. As your equipment ages, upgrades from antiquated hardware platforms can be risky due to the complexity of system architectures used and managing of the system cutover time window. FZ has performed many of PLC, VFD, MCC, HMI, & SCADA system modernization projects and has a proven process to reduce and manage inherit risk.

This self-assessment scorecard aids engineers at end-users in determining risk, complexity, and change management opportunities (people, processes, and tools) and should be completed while speaking with a FZ Subject Matter Expert.

Please rank your responses from 1–5 with 1 representing strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree.

_____ Our drawing sets are easily accessible and up to date as accurate representations of the current control architecture.

_____ We have a formal asset management system for tracking what critical assets are installed in the facility (i.e. HMI, PLC, VFDs) and their product lifecycle as it relates to preventative maintenance and obsolescence.

_____ We can swap parts of the control system easily with minimal risk to production.

_____ Critical asset programs are backed up on a regular basis and program changes are being tracked.

_____ Our control infrastructure and associated field assets are Industry 4.0/IIoT ready and can provide valuable production data for making better business decisions.

_____ Ethernet is being or has been adopted as the standard control network on the plant floor.

_____ We have secure remote connectivity access to monitor and troubleshoot our control system remotely.

_____ OT virtualization and thin clients have been adopted for plant floor applications.

_____ There is no operational risk associated with system cutover (rip and replace vs phased approached).

_____ We have levels of redundancy within our control systems (I/O, controller, and network level).

Total Score: _____

- 40–50: You're well in control of the lifecycle of your control system. Let us know if we can help in the future.

- 35–39: Room for cost reducing process efficiency improvements. Call FZ to help.

- 10–34: High degree of process inefficiency and operational risk factors. Call FZ to help.