

Automation Fair®

FUTURE in FOCUS



NOVEMBER 16-19, 2026

SESSION NAME

ABSTRACT

IE79 - The Future of MES with Edge to Cloud Systems: Plex and FactoryTalk® ResilientEdge™

Learn how technology advancements in edge to cloud MES systems combine SaaS agility with edge reliability to solve traditional pain points. Traditional approaches to MES can create security and supportability concerns, complex upgrade projects and IT/OT connectivity issues. Edge to cloud technology addresses these traditional concerns, supports 24/7 operations and provides a platform for the future.

IE80 - Meeting Customer and Regulatory Data Compliance Through Automated Data Collection

Collecting inspection data is critical to monitoring manufacturing processes and supporting product and process parameters, including both automotive and HACCP inspections and documentation. This session demonstrates how Automation & Orchestration and Plex QMS enable data to be captured directly at the point of measurement and securely stored to deliver traceability, integrity and clear ownership.

PS15 - How McGard Turned Elastic MES Into a Strategic Advantage

Explore how McGard, a high-volume manufacturer of mechanical anti-theft devices, replaced their customized AS400-based system with an Elastic MES powered by Plex. Learn how to stabilize a complex implementation to enable automated EDI ordering, dynamic address creation, subcontract routing flexibility, and real-time costing. Attendees will discover strategies for achieving end-to-end inventory visibility across OEM, aftermarket, and direct-to-consumer channels.

IE74 - AI in MES: Supporting Better Operational Decisions

AI has growing potential in manufacturing when applied to operational decision challenges. This session explores AI use-case framing, architectural patterns and decision workflows within Manufacturing Execution System(MES) environments. The discussion focuses on how AI can support human decision-making across production, maintenance and tooling operations as manufacturers evolve toward smarter and more resilient manufacturing systems.

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Using AI in Plex Analytics for ML and Natural Language Insight Hands-on Lab

In this hands-on lab, participants will use AI capabilities in Plex Analytics to create machine learning models, ask questions using natural language and generate instant insights. Attendees will work through data preparation, model configuration and insight validation, then surface results inside Plex experiences. The lab emphasizes practical techniques for delivering meaningful AI-driven analytics in manufacturing operations.

PS11 - Multi-Partner Integration of QMS and HMI for Significant Quality Improvement

Explore how Control+M Solutions, Van Meter, and Interstates collaborated to integrate Plex QMS and FactoryTalk Optix for Gelita, a collagen peptides manufacturer. Learn how the solution enables real-time quality data, automated SPC, and rapid deviation management. Attendees will discover how HMI-based systems improve quality tracking, compliance, and efficiency while enabling near real-time reporting and analysis for greater precision and transparency.

IE77 - Digitizing the Last Mile of Execution: Plex – Digital Work Instructions as a Smart Manufacturing Enabler

Modern manufacturers invest in connected machines, analytics and automation, yet the final mile of execution still relies on paper instructions, historical knowledge and inconsistent practices. This session examines how Plex Digital Work Instructions convert operational knowledge into digital, standardized, intelligent & context-aware guidance embedded within manufacturing workflows. This session explains how Plex DWIs operationalize smart manufacturing through validated, traceable and tool-integrated instructions embedded within Plex MES workflows.

IE78 - Recall-ready by Design: Traceability, Recipes and Standard Work in Plex for Food & Beverage

Food and beverage manufacturers must balance safety, speed and consistency. This session shows how Plex helps teams respond faster to recalls and help prevent issues upstream. See how genealogy, lot tracking, and quality holds speed containment, while recipes and operating parameters enforce standard work across shifts and plants. Learn practical patterns and get a forward look at the Plex roadmap for recall readiness and quality governance.

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IE73 - AI Agents in Plex MES: Production Support, Authoring Assistants and What's Next

This session provides an overview of the out-of-the-box AI and agentic capabilities available in Plex MES today. Learn how the production agent supports frontline operations, how the work instructions authoring agent accelerates content creation, and where agent capabilities are headed on the Plex roadmap. The session also explains the flex credit framework and how customers can understand, manage and scale AI usage over time.

IE75 - Turning Manufacturing Data Into Insight With AI-Powered Plex Analytics

This session explains how applied AI analytics are delivered in Plex analytics, spanning machine learning models, natural language queries and instant insights. Learn how each capability answers different types of manufacturing questions and how they work together to support operational decision-making. Attendees will gain clarity on where AI adds the most value and how to move from questions to trusted, actionable insight faster.

From Zero Trust to Operational Trust: Securing Intelligent Industrial Operations

As AI and analytics move closer to the plant floor, trust becomes the limiting factor—not technology. In response, Rockwell Automation has recently reinforced its cybersecurity vision with offerings like its SecureOT™ solution suite—bringing together an OT-focused platform, services, and managed capabilities—alongside Security Monitoring & Response for 24/7 OT threat detection and expert-led incident response. Building on that direction, this session explores how manufacturers can securely operationalize intelligence across converged IT/OT environments without increasing risk. Attendees will learn how to extend zero trust from identities and networks to the full “operational trust” stack—assets, data, models, and decisions—so teams can enable resilient, adaptive operations while protecting safety, availability, and intellectual property.

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IE01 - What's New and What's Next from Rockwell Automation

Don't miss this fast-paced session exploring what's new (and what's next) across the Allen Bradley®, FactoryTalk® and LifecycleIQ™ portfolios. From control and drives to visualization, safety, and security — plus software, services and solutions — you'll see the latest releases designed to boost performance, flexibility, and productivity on your next project.

Modernizing Legacy OT Systems with AI: The MARS PLC Upgrade Case

Industrial obsolescence is a growing business risk, with aging OT systems increasing downtime, engineering effort, and maintenance costs. This session shows how MARS modernized a legacy control environment by replacing an outdated third-party PLC with a Rockwell ControlLogix PLC and using AI to accelerate the process. The result was faster delivery, reduced production disruption, better code quality, and greater predictability across the modernization journey.

General Mills: Machine Control Resiliency

General Mills is tackling control system obsolescence and machine resiliency risks across aging manufacturing environments. With limited capital and competing priorities, they partnered with Rockwell Automation to drive a data driven approach using IBEs, Asset Inventory Manager, and Lifecycle Services. As an innovation partner for FactoryTalk® AssetIQ™, they are transforming risk management. Join this session to learn proven strategies to reduce risk and build more resilient operations.