

Automation Fair®

FUTURE in FOCUS



NOVEMBER 16-19, 2026

SESSION NAME

ABSTRACT

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.

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.

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.

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IE76 - Factory of the Future with MES: Building a Connected Factory Across the Rockwell Automation Ecosystem

The Factory of the Future is built on connectivity – from planning to production to quality and the plant edge. This session shows how manufacturers position MES as the system of record in a connected factory and integrate it with broader Rockwell Automation Ecosystem capabilities to close the loop from insight to action. Learn an integration mindset, key architectural decision points, and how to sequence a roadmap that delivers value in phases while scaling digital maturity.

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.

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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.

IE45 - From Fragmented Automation to Connected Operations With High-value AMR Workflows

If you're responsible for driving manufacturing process improvements, your role is essential in turning goals into results. Many manufacturers turn to autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) to transform fragmented automation into coordinated operations, but knowing where to start is critical. In this session, learn how to align AMRs with your operational goals, identify and prioritize high-impact workflows, and build a scalable business case that supports long-term success.

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.

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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.

IE61 - Planning a Digital Lighthouse: How Bobcat Identified and Deployed High-Value AI Use Cases

Bobcat set out to design a lighthouse digital manufacturing facility starting with a clear vision, a pragmatic digital roadmap, and a focus on high-value AI use cases. This session shows how Bobcat selected and implemented workforce assignment AI, comprehensive digital twins and real time production monitoring to improve throughput, resilience and scalability — creating a repeatable model for network-wide digital transformation.