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THE CONTROL SYSTEM AS AN INFORMATION RESOURCE: MOTIVATION AND BENEFITS

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ABSTRACT

Historically, information capture and data distribution has been less extensively employed in the gas processing industry. Current business conditions make data collection at high rates and in large volumes more valuable. As process control systems have evolved, the information capture and utilization capability of these process control systems has increased significantly. Current hybrid digital control systems have adopted much of the same technology that IT systems have developed for business information management, where these modern PC-based control systems support large amounts of on-line and archival storage at low costs.

Today's process control systems provide the capability to enhance plant performance and have also become an information resource for business operations. These process control systems improve operator effectiveness, include long-term historical data collection for performance analysis, provide opportunities for process improvements through advanced process control strategies, and allow remote access to real-time and historical data acting as a 'force multiplier' for today's business plan based on limited staffing.

The capability inherent in currently available process control systems goes beyond increasing operator effectiveness and offers timely information access to respond to the driving forces in today's business environment.

(for further reading on this topic - contact Barry D. Payne & Associates, Inc. at www.bdpayne.com)