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ABB unveils future of process automation

* ABB presents the future of Distributed Control Systems (DCS) as vital to sustainably meeting the rising demand for energy, utilities and goods
* The White Paper outlines how the DCS of the future will help industries drive digital transformation and achieve higher safety, efficiency, productivity and sustainability
* Process automation systems will evolve while remaining fundamental to enabling some of the most complex infrastructures in the world

ABB has released its White Paper entitled “The DCS of tomorrow: ABB’s process automation system vision,” which outlines how process automation systems will evolve to support industries as they undergo digital transformation and shift to sustainable energy sources.

For more than a century, automation systems have been central to empowering industries that provide the basic building blocks of our everyday lives – energy, power, water, metals, minerals, chemicals, and transportation – to scale to the needs of a growing population. And for nearly 50 years, the DCS – a digital platform for automating and operating large plants – has been instrumental in enabling safe, efficient and reliable 24/7 operations for these process and energy industries.

ABB has been a global market leader in DCS for 22 consecutive years, maintaining a leading share of around 20 percent in a market worth more than $14 billion[[1]](#footnote-2).

At the core of controlling and supervising complex processes, the DCS will continue to provide the essentials needed for safe and reliable operations, while evolving its functionality to serve the needs of accelerating digital transformation and energy transition. It will combine an ability to scale and serve new market conditions by adapting to new technologies, including the provision of standard interfaces for third-party connectivity.

ABB foresees a modular automation architecture that will evolve to address customer needs, becoming more open, interoperable and flexible, while maintaining the same high level of reliability, availability, safety and security to which users have grown accustomed.

* The DCS of the future will be embedded in a digitally-enabled environment that facilitates enterprise-wide secure connectivity and collaboration among people, systems and equipment.
* New business models will be feasible through readily downloadable application subscription services.
* Machine learning and artificial intelligence will speed issue resolution and promote remote, autonomous operations that keep people out of harm’s way and mitigate against human-induced error.
* The generation joining the workforce will leverage the familiar benefits of digitalisation without having to sacrifice the reliability, availability and security that current systems provide.

“With the DCS of tomorrow, we will accelerate innovation while maintaining the reliability and continuity for which we are known,” said Peter Terwiesch, President, ABB Process Automation. “This White Paper is a blueprint for automation systems that will future-proof industries for decades to come. Many of the industries we serve are energy and material intensive, and strive toward more sustainable production. As they increasingly integrate renewables into their energy mix, we will provide the automation with which to do it.”

ABB’s world-leading distributed control systems combine process control, electrical control, power management and safety management. They are a collaboration enabler, allowing improvement of engineering efficiency, operator performance and asset utilisation.

“ABB automates, electrifies and digitalises some of the largest and most critical operations in the world to meet the needs of our growing society, helping our customers make a world of difference,” said Terwiesch. “These sophisticated, interconnected systems work in the background, and yet are essential for nearly everything we use in our daily lives. Our future automation offerings will continue to be at the heart of this.”

**ABB’s Process Automation** business is a leader in automation, electrification and digitalisation for the process and hybrid industries. We serve our customers with a broad portfolio of products, systems, and end-to-end solutions, including our # 1 distributed control system, software, and lifecycle services, industry-specific products as well as measurement and analytics, marine and turbocharging offerings. As the global #2 in the market, we build on our deep domain expertise, diverse team and global footprint, and are dedicated to helping our customers increase competitiveness, improve their return on investment and run safe, smart, and sustainable operations. go.abb/processautomation

**ABB** (ABBN: SIX Swiss Ex) is a leading global technology company that energises the transformation of society and industry to achieve a more productive, sustainable future. By connecting software to its electrification, robotics, automation and motion portfolio, ABB pushes the boundaries of technology to drive performance to new levels. With a history of excellence stretching back more than 130 years, ABB’s success is driven by about 105,000 talented employees in over 100 countries. www.abb.com

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1. ARC Advisory Group [↑](#footnote-ref-2)