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Constantly rising productivity underpins modern societies, their economies and their competitiveness. It is widely accepted that such productivity growth is dependant on innovations and technological progress, which in recent years has been largely driven by developments in Information and Communication technologies, ICT. Falling behind in the adoption of ICT is quickly reflected in slower growth rate and lower productivity gains. The convergence of low power computing with ubiquitous networking is leading to a major shift in the way business and government are conducting their daily operations. Embedded intelligent devices enable new applications and new services. Embedded devices are present everywhere and are changing how the world communicates and

interacts. It was estimated that an average of 8 billion embedded micro components existed worldwide in 2003. Conservative estimates suggest a doubling of this figure to 16 billion by 2010, or the equivalent of three embedded devices for every person on earth!

The next issue of ABB Review will take a look at how this pervasive technology is inspiring the scientists within ABB to innovate and create new products and services. Embedded technology appears in the form of both hardware and software components to form new applications that solve our customers' issues. How these technologies are applied in the fields of power and automation are revealed.