

With no more 'easy pickings' in sight, many industrial companies are looking to marginal increases from new sources to improve their bottom-line performance. More often than not, though, these are to be found in more complex process areas, where more sophisticated optimization tools are needed to improve productivity. The next issue of *ABB Review* will look at aspects of productivity in this context.

Industry has long wanted to optimize its production processes based on

economic targets, but this goal has always seemed just out of reach.

Articles describe several solutions as they apply to different industries, with an emphasis on productivity improvement in continuous production as well as in discrete manufacturing. Examples are drawn from the cement and pulp & paper industries and from high-voltage equipment manufacturing.

The role of IndustrialIT[™] as a flexible integration platform is another subject we look at, this time in the utility

industry. And our 'Innovative engineering' series continues with creative engineering efforts from around the world.

The issue also introduces a new series: an overview of the 50 key power and automation technologies on which ABB largely relies for its portfolio development. The double-page features, which will be continued in future issues of the *Review*, should give our readers a better idea of the company's strong technology base.

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