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Aspects of productivity

For the end user, the best technology is often technology that is operationally invisible. It performs the tasks for which it was designed without drawing attention to itself. If intervention is required, this should be in a predictable manner rather than being dictated by malfunctions or outages.

Robustness can be increased by making installations more tolerant to disturbances, errors and unexpected situations. This can be through overall design considerations, making the system more resilient and flexible. It can furthermore be supported by adding "smart" functionality. Self- and remote-diagnosis can provide information on the condition of a device and enable a shift from reactive to proactive maintenance.

Productivity can also be improved by focusing on the human machine interface (HMI). Automation and control systems collect and process a lot of data. Raw data, however, is not the same as actionable information. Enabling an operator to take the best possible decision at all times involves providing a higher quality of information.

In the past, the fourth issue of *ABB Review* of every year focused on innovations. This theme is now being moved to edition one. Issue 4 of 2010 will look at ways in which ABB can uplift productivity in different situations and areas of application.