ABB has developed a product lifecycle management model aimed to provide service for maximizing availability and performance.

**Product lifecycle management**

**ABB PLC**

**INFORMATION**

**Product lifecycle management**

**ABB PLC**

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**PLC product lifecycle phases:**

- **Active**
  - (-5 to 10 years)
  - The PLC product with complete lifecycle services is available for purchase.
  - Some product enhancements can be made.

- **Classic**
  - (-5 to 7 years)
  - The PLC product with complete lifecycle services is available for plant extensions and spare parts.
  - Spare parts and repair services are available as long as materials can be obtained.
  - Migration to a new ABB PLC product is recommended.

- **Limited**
  - (-2 to 3 years)
  - ABB cannot guarantee availability of lifecycle services for technical reasons or within reasonable cost.
  - Migration to a new ABB PLC product is recommended.

- **Obsolete**
  - Complete lifecycle services

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**Lifecycle management model**

The PLC lifecycle management model provides not only optimum support to end-users but also a smooth transition to a new PLC product when the service life of the current product ends.

The model divides a product’s lifecycle into four phases: active, classic, limited and obsolete. Each phase has different implications for the end-user in terms of services and support provided.

**Benefits of lifecycle management**

PLC lifecycle management maximizes the value of the equipment and maintenance investments by:

- ensuring spare part and competence availability within the lifecycle
- enabling efficient product support & maintenance for improved reliability
- adding functionality to the initial product by following the upgrade path
- providing smooth transition to new technology in the end of the lifecycle
Active phase
The ‘active’ phase usually lasts for about five to ten years starting from the time the PLC product is launched. During this phase the end-user benefits from warranty options and other services such as training possibilities and technical support. This phase ends when the volume production of a particular PLC product ends and ABB issues a ‘Last buy notice’ through its sales and service channels.

Classic phase
PLC users continue to benefit from complete PLC lifecycle services throughout the ‘classic’ phase. The classic phase, typically lasting five to seven years, is closely aligned with ABB’s research and development work to provide continuing support for its PLC product while developing future generations. In this phase new hardware and software development may be required to provide the maintenance techniques and upgrades needed to guarantee that the PLC product continues to operate at peak performance.

Even though PLC products are no longer marketed in this phase some units may still be purchased. Complete PLC and PLC modules for extensions, spare parts and software upgrades are still available.

Throughout the classic phase ABB issues an annual update on the lifecycle plan of the PLC products so that end-users are kept fully informed.

Limited phase
In the ‘limited’ phase the product development has come to its end. Spare part services continue as long as components and materials are available, and in course of time the use of reconditioned parts could increase. Towards the end of this phase, PLC models are becoming more and more obsolete. ABB issues a lifecycle statement alerting end-users of product shifting into the ‘obsolete’ phase in well advance to give end-users enough time to make final spare part purchases or to transfer to new technology before product support ceases.

Obsolete phase
A product is transferred to the ‘obsolete’ phase when it is no longer possible to provide lifecycle services within reasonable cost, or when ABB can no more support the product technically, or the old technology is no more available. In practice this means that availability of support, spare parts & repair cannot be guaranteed, but usually spare parts and repair services are available as long as ABB does not run out of the spares stock or components can be obtained.

Typically, most ABB PLC products are supported for more than 20 years.

PLC lifecycle management model ensures that end-users are always aware of support plans of their valuable assets.