

Technology



Claes Rytöft
Chief Technology Officer
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Dear Reader,

Technological progress enables us to achieve things that were previously not possible, or to do what was previously possible more efficiently. The bounds of technology are continuously being rolled back in terms of speed, accuracy, efficiency and power. As the Information Age advances, we can add to this list such terms as controllability, smartness and interconnectedness.

Several articles in this issue of *ABB Review* are dedicated to the sharing of information. A central aspect is that such sharing cannot be a goal in itself, but that the data needs to be presented in a timely, intuitive and contextual manner. Modern day control room displays, for example, make extensive use of graphic and contextual elements. However, operators are not the only people requiring access to actionable plant data. From shift meetings to management discussions, up-to-date information is vital for planning. Jointly with the Interactive Institute of Umeå, Sweden, ABB has developed its Collaboration Board. The display's intuitive tablet-style multitouch interface provides instant access to trends and data from across the plant and beyond, and enables the rapid "drilling down" from key performance indicators to root causes.

For service personnel, process data may be of less interest but equipment data is of immense value. ABB's ServicePort is a configurable gateway providing controlled access to this information. Taking accessibility one step further, not only industries and

utilities benefit from instant data: It can be of value in the home too. A family of products from Busch-Jaeger (a member of the ABB Group) provides individual monitoring and trending of domestic energy consumption. Robots are sometimes referred to as "the extended arm of man." ABB not only encourages its customers to make use of these helpers, but is employing them in its own factories too. A case study looks at an example of this, while a customer story presents their work in a brewery.

A series of articles also looks at different approaches to increasing energy efficiency. From ships through irrigation to power transformers, ABB is advancing a broad range of approaches to saving energy and reducing emissions.

On a personal note, this is the last issue of *ABB Review* being produced in my tenure as Chief Technology Officer. I am being succeeded in this position by Prith Banerjee. I would like to thank all customers, readers and authors for their continued interest and support of ABB in general and *ABB Review* in particular.

Enjoy your reading.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claes Rytöft". The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'C' and a trailing flourish.

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