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Software

Most readers of *ABB Review* associate ABB with its various products and services for the power and automation sectors. Very few would consider ABB a software company. The latter perception is becoming increasingly inaccurate as the role of software within the company is growing.

Starting on the embedded level, software is an important component in such products as drives, meters and protection devices, where it enhances functionality and flexibility. Moving up to the system level, software is a central part of control and automation systems: It permits numerous individual devices to join forces and exchange data in real time with the whole becoming much more than the sum of its parts. In addition to the individual sensors and actors, such systems have control devices for coordination, often executing sophisticated algorithms. As a third category, ABB also creates standalone software packages for higher level control and optimization tasks.

Besides examples illustrating all these categories, edition 3/2012 of *ABB Review* will look at some more general aspects of software, such as how ABB assures quality in its software development cycle, or how cybersecurity threats can be mitigated.