

BUSINESS OWNERS & DIRECTORS GUIDE

**STRONGER BUSINESS.
LOWER RISK.
HIGHER RETURNS.
SUSTAINABLE GROWTH.**

How Smart Automation and Reliable Control Systems Drive Profitability, Efficiency and Long-Term Value



IMPROVE PROFITABILITY

Reduce downtime and operating costs to improve margins.



REDUCE RISK

Protect your business from operational, safety and compliance exposures.



OPTIMISE ASSETS

Extend asset life and get the most from your existing investments.



DRIVE GROWTH

Increase capacity, improve productivity and support future expansion.



STRONGER DECISIONS

Better data, insights and visibility for confident leadership.



BUILD SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS VALUE

Create long-term value with reliable, efficient operations.



SMARTER INVESTMENTS. STRONGER OPERATIONS. BETTER BUSINESS. REAL RESULTS.



FOR:
BUSINESS OWNERS
MANAGING DIRECTORS
CHIEF EXECUTIVES
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
INVESTORS



www.stratoscontrols.com



Corby, Northamptonshire,
United Kingdom

COMPLIANCE CHALLENGES IN INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION



This guide outlines the key automation-related pain points that can increase compliance risk, impact operations and expose your organisation.

Stratos Control Systems helps organisations overcome these challenges through standardised solutions, expert engineering and a focus on reliability, visibility and control.

THIS GUIDE WILL HELP YOU:



Identify the automation challenges driving compliance risk and operational issues.



Understand the impact on safety, reliability, and regulatory exposure.



See how Stratos helps reduce risk, improve visibility and strengthen compliance.

KEY COMPLIANCE PAIN POINTS

1. STANDARDISATION

Inconsistent systems.
Inconsistent compliance.



- ✓ Different control panel designs, templates and naming conventions across sites.
- ✓ Inconsistent PLC, HMI and network configurations.
- ✓ Variable documentation standards create gaps and confusion.
- ✓ Harder to prove compliance consistently across the business.

RISK: Inconsistent standards make it difficult to demonstrate due diligence and control.

2. RISK MANAGEMENT

Unidentified risks.
Uncontrolled exposure.



- ✓ Outdated or missing risk assessments for automation systems.
- ✓ Changes and modifications not formally assessed.
- ✓ Safety and cyber risks not fully understood.
- ✓ Inability to demonstrate that risks are identified, assessed and controlled.

RISK: Increased likelihood of safety incidents, compliance breaches and legal exposure.

3. SPARE PART MANAGEMENT

Right part. Right place.
Right time.



- ✓ Obsolete equipment and unsupported technologies in operation.
- ✓ Lack of documented critical spare parts lists.
- ✓ Unclear end-of-life status for key components.
- ✓ Delays in sourcing parts increase risk and downtime.

RISK: Equipment failures and extended downtime due to unavailable or unidentified spares.

4. DOWNTIME REDUCTION

Unplanned downtime.
Uncontrolled consequences.



- ✓ Unexpected failures disrupt production and impact safety and compliance.
- ✓ Reactive maintenance leads to repeat issues.
- ✓ Process interruptions create reporting and regulatory risks.
- ✓ Pressure to restore quickly can lead to undocumented changes.

RISK: Downtime increases risk and weakens compliance assurance.

5. FAULT FINDING & DATA VISIBILITY

Limited visibility.
Limited confidence.



- ✓ Poor visibility of system performance and asset health.
- ✓ Alarms and data not centralised or reliable.
- ✓ Difficult to trace events and identify root causes.
- ✓ Inability to provide accurate, audit-ready information.

RISK: Slow fault resolution, inaccurate reporting and weak audit trails.



Addressing these pain points strengthens compliance, reduces risk and builds confidence in your automation systems.

Stratos partners with you to implement the systems, processes and visibility you need to stay compliant, improve performance and protect your operations.



FOR:
COMPLIANCE MANAGERS
RISK MANAGERS
AUDIT & GOVERNANCE TEAMS
SAFETY & RELIABILITY LEADERS



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DOWNTIME REDUCTION

Less Downtime. More Output. Greater Efficiency.



THE CHALLENGE

Many facilities operate with ageing PLCs, inconsistent control systems and limited diagnostic capabilities. When faults occur, engineers often spend significant time identifying root causes before repairs can begin.



HOW STRATOS HELPS

Stratos modernises control systems using current PLC platforms, structured programming standards, improved diagnostics and standardised architectures. This enables maintenance teams to identify and resolve issues faster while reducing unexpected failures.



TYPICAL IMPROVEMENT



15-50%
reduction in
downtime events



30-70%
reduction in
fault-finding time



BUSINESS IMPACT

- ✓ Increased production uptime
- ✓ Reduced lost output
- ✓ Lower emergency maintenance costs
- ✓ Improved customer delivery performance

FROM DOWNTIME TO PERFORMANCE

BEFORE

Legacy Systems



- ✗ Long fault-finding times
- ✗ Unexpected breakdowns
- ✗ Reactive maintenance
- ✗ Lost production
- ✗ Higher costs

AFTER

Stratos Modernised Systems



- ✓ Fast fault-identification
- ✓ Fewer unexpected failures
- ✓ Proactive maintenance
- ✓ Increased uptime
- ✓ Lower operating costs

IMPROVING UPTIME. DRIVING RESULTS.

■ Downtime Events
— Fault-Finding Time



UP TO
50%
FEWER DOWNTIME
EVENTS

UP TO
70%
FASTER
FAULT-FINDING



REDUCE DOWNTIME
Keep production running.



IMPROVE RELIABILITY
Modern systems. Fewer failures.



BOOST PRODUCTIVITY
More uptime. More output.



LOWER COSTS
Fewer emergencies. Lower maintenance spend.



DELIVER PERFORMANCE
Meet commitments. Build customer trust.



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DATA VISIBILITY & OPERATIONAL INSIGHT

See More. Understand More.
Perform Better.

Real-time data and operational insights empower your team to make faster, smarter decisions and drive continuous improvement.



REAL-TIME DATA



SMARTER DECISIONS



BETTER PERFORMANCE



THE CHALLENGE

Many facilities lack meaningful operational data, making improvement initiatives difficult.



HOW STRATOS HELPS

SCADA systems, reporting tools and monitoring solutions provide real-time operational visibility across your plant.

REAL-TIME VISIBILITY ACROSS YOUR OPERATION

PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE	EQUIPMENT STATUS	ALARMS & EVENTS	ENERGY & UTILITIES	TRENDS & REPORTING

✔ One source of truth. Complete operational clarity.

TYPICAL IMPROVEMENT



FASTER ACCESS TO PERFORMANCE DATA

Dashboards and reports provide real-time data at your fingertips.



IMPROVED DECISION-MAKING SPEED

The right information, available when you need it.



ENHANCED ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Historical data and event tracking make it easier to identify and resolve issues.

BUSINESS IMPACT



BETTER PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

- ✔ Monitor performance in real time
- ✔ Identify bottlenecks and losses
- ✔ Drive continuous improvement



FASTER ISSUE RESOLUTION

- ✔ Detect problems sooner
- ✔ Reduce downtime and disruptions
- ✔ Improve team response



MORE INFORMED INVESTMENT DECISIONS

- ✔ Data-driven prioritisation
- ✔ Clear ROI justification
- ✔ Invest with confidence



SEE IT. UNDERSTAND IT.
IMPROVE IT.
TURN DATA INTO RESULTS.



REAL-TIME VISIBILITY



CENTRALISED DATA



PROACTIVE ALERTS



ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS



MEASURABLE RESULTS



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PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY & PROCESS PERFORMANCE

Consistent Control.
Improved Performance.
Stronger Results.

Stratos delivers automation solutions that improve process control, increase consistency and maximise equipment performance.



PRECISE CONTROL
Better control of process variables



REAL-TIME VISIBILITY
Actionable data for quicker decisions



STABLE & REPEATABLE
Consistent results, every time



THE CHALLENGE

Inconsistent automation systems often result in variable process performance and reduced productivity.



HOW STRATOS HELPS

Improved process control, modern PLC systems and enhanced visibility increase consistency and repeatability.

OUR APPROACH



Analyse
Understand current performance



Optimise
Improve control strategies & processes



Implement
Modern systems & real-time visibility



Sustain
Monitor, refine and drive continuous improvement



BETTER CONTROL. BETTER PERFORMANCE. BETTER RESULTS.

TYPICAL IMPROVEMENT



REDUCED PROCESS VARIABILITY

Tighter control leads to more stable, predictable performance.



IMPROVED PRODUCTION CONSISTENCY

More consistent output quality and throughput.



HIGHER OVERALL EQUIPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

Improved Availability, Performance and Quality across the plant.

BUSINESS IMPACT



INCREASED THROUGHPUT

- More output with the same assets
- Better cycle times and less downtime



IMPROVED PRODUCT QUALITY

- Consistent processes reduce defects
- Better compliance and customer satisfaction



BETTER UTILISATION OF ASSETS

- Maximise the value of your existing equipment
- Lower operating costs and higher returns



OPTIMISE TODAY.
PERFORM BETTER TOMORROW.



DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS



STRONGER PROCESSES
BETTER OUTCOMES



SUSTAINABLE RESULTS
YOU CAN RELY ON



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SPARE PARTS MANAGEMENT

**Standardise Today.
Reduce Inventory. Lower Costs.**

Managing spare parts doesn't have to be complex or costly. Stratos helps you streamline your inventory and focus on what matters most.



**RIGHT PART. RIGHT TIME.
LOWER COST. LESS RISK.**



THE CHALLENGE

Legacy systems often contain multiple hardware platforms and obsolete components requiring extensive spare inventories.



HOW STRATOS HELPS

Standardisation reduces hardware diversity and simplifies inventory requirements.

TYPICAL IMPROVEMENT



15-40%

REDUCTION IN SPARE PARTS INVENTORY REQUIREMENTS

Fewer parts. Less inventory. Lower cost.

HOW STANDARDISATION DELIVERS VALUE



REDUCED HARDWARE DIVERSITY
Fewer platforms mean fewer spare parts.



SIMPLIFIED INVENTORY MANAGEMENT
Easier to track, manage and forecast.



LOWER HOLDING COSTS
Less capital tied up in excess inventory.



REDUCED OBSOLESCENCE RISK
Current platforms with long-term support.

FROM COMPLEX TO SIMPLE

BEFORE

Multiple Platforms
High Inventory



AFTER

Standardised Platform
Optimised Inventory



BUSINESS IMPACT



REDUCED INVENTORY HOLDING COSTS

- ✓ Lower capital commitment
- ✓ Reduced storage requirements
- ✓ Less waste and write-offs



EASIER PARTS SOURCING

- ✓ Common components
- ✓ Multiple supplier options
- ✓ Faster lead times



LOWER OBSOLESCENCE RISK

- ✓ Proven, current technology
- ✓ Planned lifecycle support
- ✓ Fewer urgent replacements



**STANDARDISE. SIMPLIFY.
SAVE TODAY. STAY READY FOR TOMORROW.**



STANDARDISED PLATFORMS



OPTIMISED INVENTORY



REDUCED COSTS



IMPROVED RELIABILITY



MULTI-SITE STANDARDISATION

**One Standard.
Every Site. Better Together.**

Standardised automation solutions that simplify operations, improve consistency and deliver long-term value across your entire facility network.



**ONE STANDARD. EVERYWHERE.
CONSISTENT. RELIABLE. SCALABLE.**



THE CHALLENGE

Different sites often use different PLC platforms, panel standards and control philosophies.



HOW STRATOS HELPS

Stratos develops standardised automation architectures that can be deployed across multiple facilities.

OUR STANDARDISATION APPROACH



DEFINE STANDARDS
Common architectures and interfaces



DESIGN ONCE
Standard panels, code and documents



DEPLOY ANYWHERE
Consistent implementation across sites



SUPPORT EVERY SITE
Simplified support and maintenance



Standard by design. Built for performance. Deployed at scale.

TYPICAL IMPROVEMENT



**50-80%
IMPROVEMENT IN
PANEL BUILD CONSISTENCY**

Standard designs and build processes deliver consistent quality every time.



**FASTER SUPPORT AND
MAINTENANCE ACROSS SITES**

Common platforms, code and documentation mean faster diagnosis and resolution.



**EASIER SCALABILITY AND
REPLICATION**

New sites and projects benefit from proven, repeatable solutions.

BUSINESS IMPACT



**REDUCED
SUPPORT COMPLEXITY**

- ✓ Fewer platforms to support
- ✓ Common tools and training
- ✓ Lower spare parts diversity



**EASIER ENGINEER
MOBILITY**

- ✓ Engineers can work across sites
- ✓ Less re-training and ramp-up time
- ✓ Stronger workforce flexibility



**LOWER LIFECYCLE COSTS
ACROSS THE ESTATE**

- ✓ Economies of scale in design and build
- ✓ Reduced maintenance overhead
- ✓ Lower total cost of ownership



**ONE STANDARD.
EVERY SITE.
STRONGER TOGETHER.**



STANDARD
ARCHITECTURES



STANDARD
DOCUMENTATION



STANDARD
CODE LIBRARIES



STANDARD
PROCESSES



CONSISTENT
PERFORMANCE



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CHANGE MANAGEMENT & FUTURE UPGRADES

Designed for Change. Built for the Future.

Stratos designs and documents control systems so changes and upgrades are easier, faster and lower risk — today and in the future.



MODULAR
BY DESIGN



EASY TO
CHANGE



BUILT FOR
TOMORROW



THE CHALLENGE

Many organisations find even small modifications difficult because systems are poorly documented and inconsistent.



HOW STRATOS HELPS

Modular designs, standardised programming and comprehensive documentation make future upgrades simpler and lower risk.

DESIGNED FOR EASY CHANGE



MODULAR
ARCHITECTURE



STANDARDISED
PROGRAMMING



COMPREHENSIVE
DOCUMENTATION



REUSABLE
COMPONENTS



SCALABLE FOR
FUTURE NEEDS

SMALL CHANGES TODAY. BIG BENEFITS TOMORROW.

TYPICAL IMPROVEMENT



30-60%

REDUCTION IN
UPGRADE PROJECT RISK

Lower risk through consistent designs, standards and clear documentation.



FASTER
IMPLEMENTATION OF
FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Changes can be delivered quicker with less rework and downtime.

BUSINESS IMPACT



LOWER
LIFECYCLE COSTS

- ✓ Easier, lower-cost upgrades
- ✓ Less rework and re-engineering
- ✓ Lower total cost of ownership



REDUCED FUTURE
PROJECT COMPLEXITY

- ✓ Clear structure and documentation
- ✓ Faster scoping and planning
- ✓ Simpler testing and commissioning



GREATER OPERATIONAL
FLEXIBILITY

- ✓ Adapt quickly to changing needs
- ✓ Easier integration of new technologies
- ✓ Future-proofed operations



CHANGE WITH CONFIDENCE.
UPGRADE WITH EASE.
FUTURE-READY BY DESIGN.



DOCUMENTED
& TRACEABLE



LOWER RISK
CHANGES



LESS DOWNTIME
& DISRUPTION



BUILT FOR
CONTINUOUS
IMPROVEMENT

THE OVERALL RESULT

Measurable impact. Real business value.
Across every part of your operation.



BETTER AUTOMATION.
BETTER OUTCOMES.

TYPICAL IMPROVEMENTS ACHIEVED WITH STRATOS



15–50%
FEWER DOWNTIME INCIDENTS

Improved reliability and greater uptime.



30–70%
FASTER FAULT FINDING

Quickly identify issues and resolve faster.



20–40%
LOWER MAINTENANCE EFFORT

More efficient processes and better systems.



20–50%
LOWER SUPPORT COSTS

Reduced reactive support and external dependency.



30–60%
LOWER PROJECT RISK

Better planning, standardisation and proven approaches.



40–70%
LESS AUDIT PREPARATION EFFORT

Well-documented systems ready when you are.



30–60%
FASTER ENGINEER ONBOARDING

Standardised systems are easier to learn and use.



15–40%
LOWER SPARE PARTS INVENTORY

Fewer parts, lower inventory and less obsolescence risk.



50–80%
GREATER STANDARDISATION ACROSS FACILITIES

Consistent architectures, designs and standards.

THE RESULT FOR YOUR BUSINESS



MORE RELIABLE OPERATIONS

Reduced interruptions and greater stability.



HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY AND PERFORMANCE

Systems that enable your people to perform at their best.



LOWER TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP

Efficient to operate, support and grow.



STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT TEAMS

Empowered engineers and sustainable processes.



SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Better outcomes for your business and the planet.



The result is not simply better automation—
it is a more efficient, reliable and maintainable operation that costs less to support throughout its lifecycle.

THE STRATOS DIFFERENCE

Unlike many automation providers who focus solely on project delivery, Stratos Control Systems focuses on the entire lifecycle of your automation systems.

OUR GOAL IS SIMPLE:

To help industrial organisations spend **less** time firefighting, less money maintaining ageing systems and **more** time operating efficient, reliable and scalable facilities.

REAL OUTCOMES. LASTING IMPACT.



REDUCE DOWNTIME

Improve reliability and keep operations running.



IMPROVE ENGINEERING EFFICIENCY

Spend less time on reactive issues and more on improvement.



LOWER LIFECYCLE COSTS

Reduce maintenance, support and upgrade costs.



SIMPLIFY SYSTEM SUPPORT

Standardised systems and documentation for long-term ease and flexibility.



SCALE WITH CONFIDENCE

Future-ready solutions that grow with your business.



STANDARDS-BASED AUTOMATION

Consistent. Reliable. Future-ready.



CONTROL PANEL DESIGN & BUILD

Built to standards. Built to last.



PLC SYSTEM UPGRADES

Modernise without disruption.



SCADA & SYSTEM INTEGRATION

Visibility that drives better decisions.



LIFECYCLE SUPPORT

Support that goes beyond go-live.



DOCUMENTATION THAT DELIVERS

Clear. Complete. Compliant.



We help manufacturers spend **less time** firefighting, **less money** maintaining ageing systems and **more time** running efficient, reliable operations.

