

AUTOMATION MANAGER'S GUIDE

**RELIABLE AUTOMATION.
SMARTER SYSTEMS.
MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE.
FUTURE READY.**

How to Lead Automation Strategy,
Improve System Reliability and
Deliver Value Across Your Plant

- 
IMPROVE SYSTEM RELIABILITY
 Design and maintain automation systems that are reliable, resilient and easy to support.
- 
INCREASE PERFORMANCE
 Optimise control strategies, data visibility and process efficiency.
- 
REDUCE RISK
 Ensure cybersecurity, compliance and functional safety across all systems.
- 
STANDARDISE & INTEGRATE
 Standardise platforms and integrate systems for consistency and scalability.
- 
CONTROL COSTS
 Lower total cost of ownership through smarter design and lifecycle planning.
- 
DEVELOP YOUR TEAM
 Build capability, share knowledge and drive a culture of continuous improvement.



- 
BETTER VISIBILITY
 Centralised data and insights for faster, smarter decisions.
- 
CYBER SECURE
 Protect your systems, data and operations from cyber threats.
- 
FUTURE READY
 Scalable solutions designed to grow with your business.
- 
SEAMLESS INTEGRATION
 Connect systems, processes and people across your plant.
- 
OPTIMISED ASSETS
 Maximise asset life and reduce total cost of ownership.
- 
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
 Drive innovation and unlock long-term value from automation.

SMART AUTOMATION. RELIABLE SYSTEMS. SAFER OPERATIONS. GREATER VALUE.

FOR:
 AUTOMATION MANAGERS
 CONTROL SYSTEMS ENGINEERS
 AUTOMATION ENGINEERS
 SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS
 TECHNICAL LEADERS

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.




FAULT FINDING & TROUBLESHOOTING

**FIND FAULTS FASTER.
GET BACK TO PRODUCTION SOONER.**

Well-designed systems, clear information and better visibility mean faster diagnosis and quicker resolutions.









THE CHALLENGE

Poor documentation, inconsistent panel layouts and undocumented modifications make troubleshooting slow and difficult.



HOW STRATOS HELPS

Through standards-based panel design, clear labelling, structured PLC programming and comprehensive documentation, engineers can quickly locate faults and understand system operation.

BEFORE INCONSISTENT. UNCLEAR. SLOW.	AFTER STANDARDISED. CLEAR. FAST.
	
 EASY TO FIND	 CLEAR DOCUMENTATION
	 CLEAR LABELLING
	 STRUCTURED PROGRAMMING

TYPICAL IMPROVEMENT



30-70%
REDUCTION IN
FAULT-FINDING TIME



50-90%
REDUCTION IN
DOCUMENTATION
RETRIEVAL TIME

BUSINESS IMPACT



FASTER REPAIRS

Engineers resolve issues quickly and get systems back online.



REDUCED DOWNTIME DURATION

Shorter outages mean more uptime and higher production output.



LOWER MAINTENANCE LABOUR COSTS

Less time spent searching, more time fixing.



LESS RELIANCE ON INDIVIDUAL "TRIBAL KNOWLEDGE"

Knowledge is documented, shared and sustainable.



Better information. Better systems.
Better outcomes.



QUICKER
DIAGNOSIS



IMPROVED
PRODUCTIVITY



GREATER
RELIABILITY



STRONGER
REPERFORMANCE



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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



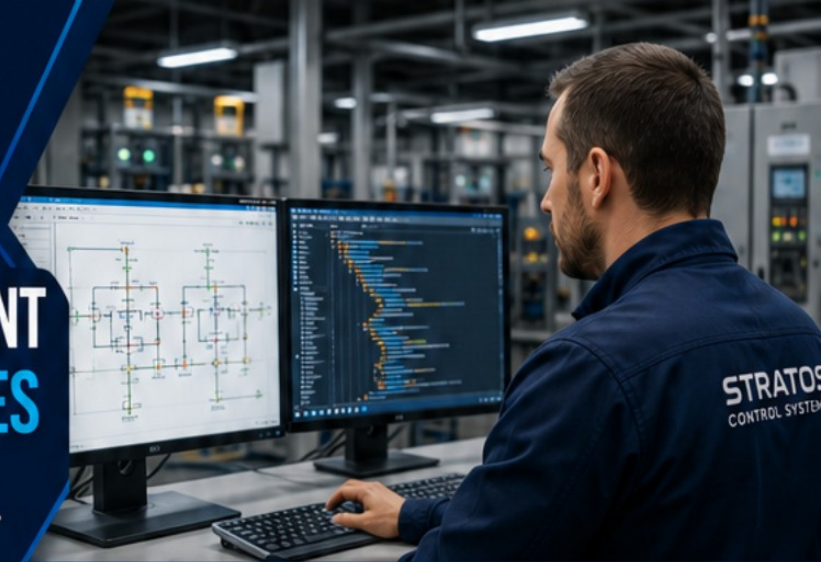
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CHANGE MANAGEMENT & FUTURE UPGRADES

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



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TRAINING & ENGINEER ONBOARDING

Knowledge Shared.
Engineers Empowered. Teams Stronger.



**CLEAR SYSTEMS.
BETTER UNDERSTANDING.
STRONGER TEAMS.**



THE CHALLENGE

New engineers often struggle to understand legacy systems due to inconsistent standards and poor documentation.



HOW STRATOS HELPS

Standardised architectures, documented systems and structured control philosophies reduce the learning curve for new personnel.

BUILT FOR UNDERSTANDING. DESIGNED FOR SUCCESS.



STANDARDISED ARCHITECTURES



COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENTATION



CONSISTENT PROGRAMMING STANDARDS



INTUITIVE DIAGNOSTICS & VISUALISATION



CLEAR CONTROL PHILOSOPHIES & WORKFLOWS



From day one, new engineers can understand, contribute and **add value**.

TYPICAL IMPROVEMENT



30-60%

FASTER ONBOARDING OF NEW ENGINEERS

New engineers reach productivity faster.



50-90%

FASTER ACCESS TO TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Find what you need, when you need it.

BUSINESS IMPACT



FASTER COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT

Engineers become effective sooner and contribute more quickly.



REDUCED DEPENDENCY ON KEY INDIVIDUALS

Knowledge is captured, shared and retained within the team.



IMPROVED WORKFORCE RESILIENCE

Strong, capable teams ready to support today and scale for tomorrow.



**EMPOWERING ENGINEERS.
STRENGTHENING TEAMS.
DELIVERING RELIABLE OPERATIONS.**



BETTER DOCUMENTATION



SHARED KNOWLEDGE



STANDARDISED SYSTEMS



STRONGER PERFORMANCE



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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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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

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.

