

**Informed Cyber Security Policy:  
Vital in Defense of Our Nation's Industrial Infrastructure**

**Issue:** Within the national emphasis on industrial infrastructure security, the cyber or electronic security of industrial automation and control systems (IACS) is critical because of the potentially disastrous impact a compromise could have on human safety and welfare, economic viability and stability, the environment, and the integrity of the overall national infrastructure.

IACS have proven to be vulnerable in both laboratory demonstrations and by actual cyber incidents. Consequently, government agencies and regulators are working with various industry groups to establish programs and standards to assess and improve IACS security posture and the protection capabilities of critical infrastructure. Much of this activity, however, is focused on specific sectors that may have narrow concerns and agendas – even though the nature of the challenge, while highly complex, is interrelated and essentially the same across all industries using manufacturing and process control equipment and automation systems. The costs to industry and the heightened risks of ineffective solutions are much higher with this fragmented approach through multiple, industry-specific standards. Universal and rationalized standards, while more difficult to achieve, are ultimately a much more effective business and technical solution for IACS cyber security.

**The Automation Federation Role:** Understanding the challenges and complexities in IACS cyber security across our nation's vast industrial infrastructure requires an unbiased collaboration of experts representing a range of private and public sectors and technologies. As a nonprofit engineering association of 30,000 automation and control systems professionals, ISA is uniquely positioned to bring together this wide-ranging expertise. The Automation Federation is an umbrella organization under which, amongst others, ISA lies. ISA is the international standards organization for industrial automation and control systems.

ISA, an accredited member organization of the American National Standards Institute, has harnessed this multi-sector expertise in two major ongoing industrial cyber security initiatives:

- The ISA99 Standards Development Committee, which is developing American National Standards and guidelines on IACS cyber security technologies and programs that can be universally applied across all industry sectors.
- The ISA Security Compliance Institute, which supports effective implementation of industry standards via compliance testing, market awareness, technical support, and education.

To help ensure informed policy decisions, ISA offers government policy makers and leaders access to the guidance and advice of our leading experts on industrial automation and control systems cyber security from a broad range of industries and technologies– as requested and at no cost. This service could include review and comment on proposed regulations, expert testimony before congressional and regulatory committees, participation on special commissions, definition and development of government supported initiatives in technology development and research, and more.

**Next step:** The Automation Federation would like your personal recommendation and assistance in securing a seat or active role on the President's Council to offer our assistance in furthering the discussion of this issue in legislation. In addition, your support of a monetary grant or other funding opportunity would facilitate the development and implementation of the standards.

The Automation Federation will be honored to provide this service to policy makers and leaders at any time. Please contact:

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