

Current Status 7th of December 2017

The standard development has now been taken off hold. We have approval from the Institute of Apprentices to proceed with development with an important constraint. The constraint is that we need to combine our work with the Automotive Trailblazer Group and create a joint standard for Control Systems Engineering.

We have met with the trailblazer group Chairman who is supportive and keen to progress. In the New Year, we will begin work on the new draft core and options standards. A committee has been set up to develop an endpoint assessment framework. We will be joining this committee in the New Year to ensure that it meets the needs of the Process Manufacturing industries.

Our intention is to complete this work as soon as possible, hopefully before or around the summer.

Current Status 19th of July 2017

Over the last two months' significant progress has been made on the standard development and we now face a major hurdle.

The draft standard has been completed and reviewed by members of the trailblazer group. At the Advanced in Process Control and Automation IChemE seminar attendees were invited to comment on the proposed standard. Several of these attendees provided valued comments which have been considered, incorporated and responded to. The draft standard is now considered complete. The only expected changes to the standard are through the iterations necessary to ensure it aligns with the end-point assessment.

The process of creating the end-point assessment has commenced. The trailblazer group has decided to use the approved end-point assessment from the Process Automation Standard as the basis.

We have received feedback from the Institute of Apprentices that they are unable to decide on the need for a Process Control System Engineer standard. The letter received states that they need to further understand the relationship between process control, process automation and a more generic process industries engineer. The standard is now on hold until we receive further feedback from the Institute or decide on how to proceed.

Current Status 24th of May 2017

The trailblazer group is now well established and functioning well. We have recently welcomed two new Universities to the trailblazer group and a new SME company. I believe that we now have a very diverse makeup to the group and it contains all the elements needed to effectively move forward with the standard development. In our last meeting on the 23rd of May we received permission from our Relationship Manager to submit our expression of interest to the Institute of Apprentices. This expression of interest has been submitted and we eagerly await the response from the institute in six to eight weeks' time.

Whilst we are waiting for confirmation we will be proceeding at risk. We have now made a few fundamental decisions on the format of the standard. The standard will not be a core and options

standard and it will not be an integrated degree standard. The standard will be based around existing accredited degrees which are already being delivered around the country. We expect these degrees to be either engineering degrees or computer science degrees relevant to the process control.

The next activity of the trailblazer group will be to develop the draft standard for consultation. It is expected that this draft standard will be written over the next couple of weeks.

Current Status 05th of April 2017

A few weeks ago, we held the kick off meeting for the trailblazer group. The meeting went very well and was well supported by the industry and our Government Relationship Manager. During the meeting, after much discussion, we agreed that the name of the apprenticeship standard should be the 'Process Control Systems Engineer' standard. With the aim of making this standard more systems specific than the level 7 standard developed by PACT. The next meeting is planned for the 11th of April and during that meeting we will develop an initial set of knowledge, skills and behaviors for the apprentices. This is required for inclusion in the expression of interest letter which will hopefully be sent out at the end of the month.

In addition, we now have ten confirmed members of the trailblazer group meeting the minimum Government requirement. We now need one more University before we can fully satisfy the criteria for a trailblazer group. Recent members to the group include PX Engineering and Siemens.

Current Status 19th of January 2017

Over the course of the last month we have reached out to a number of companies to invite them to join a working committee to create a level 6 standard for Process Automation. We currently have nine confirmed members (seven are companies) and four tentative companies. As per the guidance for trailblazers the requirement is to have at least ten employees, two of which are smaller than 50 employees. If you would like to join the working committee please contact the committee chair, Scott Turner, at Scott.Turner@Emerson.com.

The working committee meeting will be arranged shortly and is expected to take place within the next two months.

Current Status 8th of January 2017

ConocoPhillips in Teesside have agreed to join the Trailblazer group and offer their support (thank you ConocoPhillips). We have also had a preliminary meeting with one of the Government Relationship Managers who provided us with very good information on writing the expression of interest letter. We are still looking for new members for the working group, so if you are interested please let me know.