DIGITAL ENABLEMENT

START YOUR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY

Industry 4.0 and digital transformation are providing the opportunity for unprecedented levels of connectivity between systems at all levels of our operations. Industry 4.0 can facilitate improvements to drive efficiencies for those who rely heavily on industrial processes, for example chemical plants and manufacturing facilities. It achieves this by making predictive decisions based on real-time data to provide a deeper understanding of the relationship between all process parameters. However, the path to this digital revolution can be costly and challenging, especially on plants and facilities where there is aging equipment and assets. But there is a way to start to move towards a digitalised plant in an evolutionary manner by mitigating some of these costs and reducing the challenges in the future. Through digital enablement thinking we apply technologies to traditional systems and start this digital evolution.

Obsolescence management vs digital enablement

Traditionally obsolescence management is used to monitor an assets lifespan, criticality, key risk areas such as supportability and ensure that migration and mitigation plans are in place.

Now however, obsolescence management needs viewing through the lens of digitalisation and Industry 4.0. We can use this as an opportunity to digitally enable and upgrade systems to provide further value in the form of data capture to improve plant optimisation, efficiency and reduce plant down time.

This is not a radical shift in the principles of obsolescence management, more an underpinning of the principles with a view on the requirements of digitalisation. We ensure that when viewing obsolescence we focus on data requirements, asset data and new technologies as we look to replace obsolete equipment throughout the life cycle of an asset.

Obsolete does not mean useless

With the advent of Industry 4.0 a number of technologies have been made available that again allow us to view obsolescence differently.

Where a business may be starting to look at a digital transformation strategy it is easy to assume that older equipment will need to be replaced as part of the transformation program.

Digital enablement, again, can make us think differently about this, implementing technologies that will interface with this older equipment or work in line with it to augment the asset and bring us information that we're looking for.

These technologies are in abundance now and correct selection and application need to be carefully considered before implementation but the value that can be gained by use of them is significant.

Why choose Bilfinger UK?

Bilfinger UK have a long history in design, installation, management, maintenance and servicing of our customers assets and have now built a significant capability within the digitalisation arena.

We are able to combine all of this capability to truly define and realise value through the application of digital enablement thinking.

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