

Asset Guardian
SOLUTIONS LIMITED

Cyber Security and Energy from Waste Plants



“Asset Guardian Solutions Limited (AGSL) provides convenient and cost-effective tools for mitigating the risks associated with the hacking of industrial control systems and ransomware”

Safeguarding the Integrity of Operational Technology (OT)

Energy from Waste (EfW) plant owners and operators continually strive to maintain high plant availability rates in order to maximise gate fee revenues, while compliance with strict environmental standards is another area where focus is essential. However there are other areas of plant operations, which are often overlooked that demand just as much attention, if the safe operation and profitability of an Energy from Waste plant are to be realised.

Cyber Security and Industrial Automation and Control Systems

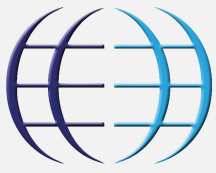
Over the past few years, there have been several high-profile incidents that have resulted in loss of production at industrial process plants for extended periods of time. As the danger of cyber-attacks has grown against OT systems, national and international standards such as IEC 62443, ‘Industrial Automation and Control System (IACS) Security’, and the EU’s ‘Security of Network and Information Systems (NIS) Regulations 2018’, have been published and regularly updated to provide guidance on how to combat these threats and safeguard business continuity.

Compliance Management

The regulations, standards and guidelines that govern the Energy from Waste (EfW) industry call for the effective management of control systems software. In general terms, this means ensuring secure back-ups of software code, system configuration management, a Management of Change (MOC) procedure for process software, fault logging and user password management. With no effective system in place to manage these responsibilities, there is a significant risk of failing to comply with these regulatory requirements.

Managing IACS Obsolescence

Industrial control systems, their components and the software associated with them age over the course of a plant’s life. In addition to security concerns, the obsolescence of components and systems becomes an increasingly important issue over time. Determining the true obsolescence status of complex control systems and developing strategies for managing this issue, in a cost-effective way, can seem daunting and prohibitively expensive. Responsibility for managing this issue is sometimes delegated to a system supplier. This is less than ideal, because accountability for compliance with Regulations and Standards remains with the owner and/or operator.



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The Asset Guardian Software

AGSL has over 20 years experience helping energy and industrial process customers manage their control system assets and meet regulatory requirements and international industry standards. The functionality of the Asset Guardian software has developed and grown during this period with much input from our customers. It can be used to manage both the software and hardware configurations of these systems.

AGSL is currently rolling out a centralised, global system for a major energy company across nine geographical regions. The data managed includes system components, operating systems, firmware, anti-virus, IP addresses, network zones and installed applications. Our customer's objective was to further utilise data within their existing Asset Guardian systems to provide a global management system, particularly for cyber security, disaster recovery and obsolescence management. The benefits and cost savings are significant.

Asset Guardian software is fully flexible and customisable and can easily be tailored to simulate internal management processes and procedures so that it is intuitive to use. The use of individual user accounts and user groups means that access to sensitive data and entire sections of Asset Guardian can be restricted. It is a stand-alone system and does not interfere with existing IT or OT architecture.

Consultancy services and audits can be provided to assist with the implementation of an Asset Guardian system. Once a system is installed and configured, full technical support and maintenance is provided. Training can be delivered through either classroom or computer-based training courses.

AGSL understands how difficult it can be to manage something that is so critically important but very hard to manage without the right tools and processes. In a sector where safety, compliance, cyber security, disaster recovery and obsolescence management are so vital, it pays to draw on AGSL's experience within the energy industry.

Take Control and Control Change

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