

## **Human-machine Interface (HMI) Windows® XP to Windows 7 Transition Product Life-cycle Announcement**

September 2011

The Human-machine Interface (HMI) with the ControlST\* software suite is the operator and engineering workstation used with GE Energy's turbine, generator, and power plant control systems. This Windows-based application is provided on Mark\* VIe Integrated Control System products and offered as an upgrade for Mark V, Ve, VI, and VIe control systems.

To keep pace with the evolution of operating systems from Microsoft®, GE Energy is upgrading our standard offering from Windows XP to Windows 7 in September 2011. Specifically, the new operating system will employ Windows 7 64-bit Ultimate (SP1) with CIMPLICITY\* Advanced Viewer/Server (V8.2) and WorkstationST\* (V4.3) applications or newer. The software is validated with the overall ControlST V4.3 software suite for compatibility with current hardware options and related peripherals.

Software upgrades for installed HMIs with Windows XP are still supported. Where new features are desired, an upgrade to Windows 7 may be required. In this case, it is recommended that the overall HMI system, including hardware and peripherals, be evaluated for compatibility with Windows 7 64-bit (for example, new printer drivers are generally needed for 64-bit operation).

Microsoft has advised that they will provide extended support for Windows XP, including service packs, until April 2014. Microsoft's mainstream support for Windows 7 Ultimate is scheduled to end in January 2015, which will be followed by a period of extended support until January 2020. The extended date is important for GE controls users with requirements to maintain the latest applicable patching level on HMIs.

GE Energy is committed to cost effective life-cycle support and offers a wide range of hardware / software enhancements along with System Service Agreements for HMIs and other products. For further assistance, contact the nearest GE Sales or Service Office, or an authorized GE Sales Representative.

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For additional information on Microsoft life-cycle support, please visit <http://support.microsoft.com/gp/lifeselect>

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