



## **Human-machine Interface Windows<sup>®</sup> XP End of Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Support Product Life-cycle Announcement**

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The product life-cycle support policy helps you plan the maintenance and evolution of your GE control system. This notice is to inform you that Microsoft<sup>†</sup> has announced intentions to end extended support of the Windows XP operating system, effective April 8, 2014. If you are still using the Windows XP operating system after that date, you may no longer receive all security updates. GE is advising users to upgrade affected systems to the Windows 7 Server 2008R2. The operator and engineering workstation used with GE's turbine, generator, and power plant control systems is based on the Windows operating system. These applications are part of the ControlST\* software suite for Integrated Control System (ICS) products. These include Mark V, Ve, VI, and VIe control systems.

Based on our commitment to provide our customers with timely updates, GE introduced an upgrade from the Windows XP operating system to the Windows 7 operating system in September 2011. The Windows 7 operating system uses 64-bit Windows 7 Ultimate (SP1) with CIMPLICITY\* Advanced Viewer/Server (V08.02) and WorkstationST\* applications V04.03 or later. For compatibility with current hardware options and related peripherals, the software is validated with the ControlST V04.03 and later.

To protect against cyber threats, GE provides the SecurityST\* Cyber Security Management System. This offering supports the ControlST software suite workstations and server platforms. As you consider evolution plans for your control systems, GE recommends the most current cyber protection offerings.

Microsoft mainstream support for Windows 7 is currently scheduled to end in January 2015, which will be followed by a period of extended support, including security patching, scheduled to end January 2020. The extended support date is important for GE controls users who must maintain the latest applicable patches on their HMIs. Software upgrades for installed HMIs with the Windows XP operating system are still supported.

The ControlST software suite is continually enhanced with new features. An upgrade to Windows 7 may be required to access these features. In this case, it is recommended that the overall HMI system, including hardware and peripherals, be evaluated for compatibility with the 64-bit Windows 7 operating system. For example, new printer drivers are generally needed for 64-bit operation.

GE Energy Management is committed to cost-effective, life-cycle support with a wide range of hardware and software products, services, and service agreements to keep your equipment running reliably.

Thomas Finucane - Controls Product Line Manager  
GE Energy Management

<sup>†</sup>For additional information on Microsoft life cycle support, see <http://support.microsoft.com/gp/lifeselect>