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Happy Valentine's Day!

In this issue you will find some of the highlights of the past months here at Jordan Engineering, and advance notice of our 2003 Automation Workshop. Everyone had a great time at our 4th annual Christmas Open House, and we've included some photos, as well as the winners of our We Can't Spell Success Without U Award. In November we were very pleased to welcome Attila Lazok to our service team. We also want to say a special thank you to all the participants of the Heart & Stroke Foundation walk. Finally, we have the latest installment of our "Real World Solutions" series. Thank you for joining us!

We have a sweetheart of a deal for you! On Friday, April 4th we'll be holding our second annual Automation Workshop. This year we're very happy to announce that Paul Burns from ACP will be traveling from Georgia to provide us with an opportunity to learn first hand how Thin Client solutions can be implemented. Additional presentations will be provided by local vendors, our project partnering companies, and best of all, by several end users. Last year's event was a big success, and we plan on making this one even better by encouraging attendees to provide 5 to 15 minute end user presentations. So this year we'll be providing 10 very special gift packs to be distributed to the participants willing to take the stage and share either their experience or current control issues with the group. Keep a look out for the invitations - they will be going out in March, and we look forward to seeing you there.
For more information about last year's workshop, click here

4th Annual Christmas Open House

December 14th found us enjoying a great evening of food, friends, and festivities as we once again welcomed many of our clients and vendors for our 4th annual Christmas Open House. This year, we decided to spice up the evening with a Silent Auction, with all proceeds going to Women's Place in St. Catharines. We are proud to announce that through the generosity of our guests and suppliers, we were able to raise $1,500!
We would especially like to thank the following who contributed items to be auctioned:

- Gryphon Engineering Services Inc.
- CB Automation
- Gerrie Electric
- The Heart and Stroke Foundation
- Vega Wireless Corporation
- CR Smith Insurance

For photos and other highlights of the evening, click here

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We Can't Spell Success Without U Award

Each year we present an award to acknowledge the support received from our clients and suppliers over the past year. This year, several challenging projects were successfully completed at Inco in Port Colborne, and we were very pleased to have been part of the project teams and attribute much of their success to the vision and technical expertise provided by the project leaders. Therefore, this year we found ourselves in the enviable position of being unable to decide between 2 recipients!
We are proud to present our 2002 We Can't Spell Success Without U Award to:

Harold Graybiel
Inco Ltd.

Ann Raby, P.Eng.
Inco Ltd.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank these two exceptional individuals who have brought so much talent and support to our working relationship during the past year.

Introducing Attila Lazok

Until recently, Attila was our area rep for Allen-Bradley products. Over the years, his strong technical skills in the factory automation field along with his dedication to client satisfaction has repeatedly impressed us. As a new member of Jordan Engineering, Attila has already begun to deliver technical expertise and hands-on support to several of our existing clients. Attila brings to the group new and existing skills, such as:

- Variable Frequency Drives and their application and networking

Upcoming Events

Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day

Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day

Mar 1 to 9 -

Mar 7 - Curling for Stroke

April 4 - 2nd Annual Automation Workshop

News Archives:

Winter 2003 Newsletter

Fall 2002 Newsletter

Summer 2001 Newsletter

July 2000 Press Release

Summer 2000 Newsletter

- Industrial Controls from Allen-Bradley and their application
- Components such as: Soft-Starts, Contactors, Photoelectric, Ultrasonic and Inductive Sensors, Encoders and Resolvers
- Electronic Operator Interfaces such as Panelview and 6182 RSView machine edition
- Designing RSView32 Projects
- Basics of Motion Control in both single axis and multi axis configurations
- Industrial Networking Protocols such as Allen-Bradley's Remote I/O (RIO) and DH+
- DeviceNet, ControlNet, and Ethernet networks used with AB processors and gateways
- Various Serial Protocols such as DF1, ASCII, and Modbus RT

Attila can be reached at (905) 562-9797 ext. 226 or by email at Attila@JrdnEng.com

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Walk for Heart and Stroke

This year Jordan Engineering was a corporate sponsor of the Cheerio's Mother Daughter Walk for Heart and Stroke. It was an exciting and fun day that brought together members of our staff, family, friends and clients to walk (or run!) to raise money for Heart & Stroke Research.

Our corporate team was among more than 25,000 people across Canada who laced up their sneakers and raised more than $1.7 million nationally. We are proud to announce that Anna Murre was the top fund-raiser for the St. Catharines walk, and our corporate team managed to raise over $3,500 for this worthwhile cause!

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Real World Solutions

It's cold out this week! Wiarton Willie predicted an early spring this year and I'll be the first to admit I hope he's right. While we're all thinking of warmer weather, it's a great time to start planning your annual system maintenance. Shutdowns are our best window of opportunity to perform system maintenance, but many of the tasks get pushed aside by project installations. Taking the time now to prepare a list of maintenance objectives will help you to allocate the required resources for your shutdown this summer.

If you started a standards binder last quarter, label the last tab in the binder with a title such as "Shutdown System Maintenance Objectives". Then start a list of maintenance items that pertain directly to your PLC and SCADA systems. Include in this section any screen shots, reference materials, emails and even copies of downloaded software you'll need to complete the tasks. A few entries to get you started are below:

1. PLC & UPS Batteries: List of all devices and their locations. Date each battery was installed. Part number and vendor for PLC replacement batteries. Highlight those scheduled for replacement this summer.
2. PC Cleaning: List of all PCs scheduled to be cleaned, also hardrive upgrades and cleanup.
3. Drive Imaging: Each system should have an image stored for quick restoration in the event of a hardware failure. Store your imaging software and all recent images here and note those that need to be updated.
4. Software Updates: Copies of software patches or upgrades, list of nodes requiring installation as well as technical notes and directions. Print out of the "read me first" files to review compatibility with existing hardware and software drivers etc.
5. PLC Programs: List of configuration changes which require a full down load to be implemented (such as data and ladder file sizes, peer cop communications etc.).

6. Operating System Service Packs: List of node names and copies of required upgrades to current operating systems.

Over the next few months as software upgrades arrive, logic changes are completed and hardware is serviced, keep jotting down items on your shutdown list. Once a month review the list and make sure part numbers, software and services are available (this would be a good place to keep our number ☺). If you are not working towards an annual shutdown but rather have periodic unscheduled downtime, this system will help you make the most out of downtime by having a list of work and all the required tools available at your fingertips!

This note is part of a series on implementation of PLC and SCADA maintenance standards in an existing system. If you have a real world dilemma and would like some feedback, email Sandra@JrdnEng.com and your comments may get selected for the next issue!

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About Us:

Jordan Engineering Inc. (http://www.JrdnEng.com/) is a group of Engineers and Computer Professionals who provide industrial software solutions. We work closely with your operations, maintenance and industry specialists to jointly develop a customized, user-friendly system with both long term and short term ROI. Our services include:

- PLC Programming
- SCADA & Website Design
- Customized Training
- System Integration
- Full 24 Hour Support

For more information about our services, please visit the services section on our website or contact Sandra Murre directly at:

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