

COURSE OVERVIEW IE0242

Operating System Hardening for OT Environments

Course Title

Operating System Hardening for OT Environments

Course Reference

IE0242

Course Duration/Credits

Five days/3.0 CEUs/30 PDHs



Course Date/Venue

Session(s)	Date	Venue
1	April 20-24, 2026	Glasshouse Meeting Room, Grand Millennium Al Wahda Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE
2	July 05-09, 2026	Safir Meeting Room, Divan Istanbul, Turkey
3	October 18-22, 2026	Tamra Meeting Room, Al Bandar Rotana Creek, Dubai UAE
4	November 01-05, 2026	Crowne Meeting Room, Crowne Plaza Al Khobar, KSA

Course Description



This practical and highly-interactive course includes various practical sessions and exercises. Theory learnt will be applied using our state-of-the-art simulators.



This course is designed to provide participants with a detailed and up-to-date overview of Operating System Hardening for OT Environments. It covers the differences between IT and OT security; the operating system hardening and threat landscape for OT systems; the regulatory and compliance standards for OT security; the risk assessment and security baselines for OT operating systems; the hardening strategies for Windows and Linux in OT; the secure installation and patch management, secure user and account management and secure remote access for OT systems; and the network segmentation, isolation strategies, hardening services and processes.



During this interactive course, participants will learn the secure boot and trusted execution and hardening application security in OT systems; the secure logging and monitoring for OT systems, endpoint protection and malware defenses; the file system and storage hardening, secure industrial protocols and communication and lateral movement and privilege escalation; the incident response plan for OT systems, security forensics and threat intelligence in OT; the business continuity and disaster recovery for OT security; and the compliance audits and security assessments.

Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course, each participant will be able to:-

- Apply and gain a good working knowledge on operating system hardening for operational technology (OT) environments
- Explain the differences between IT and OT security including operating system hardening
- Recognize threat landscape for OT systems as well as regulatory and compliance standards for OT security
- Apply risk assessment and security baselines for OT operating systems
- Carryout hardening strategies for Windows and Linux in OT
- Implement secure installation and patch management, secure user and account management and configuring secure remote access for OT systems
- Illustrate network segmentation, isolation strategies, hardening services and processes
- Implement secure boot and trusted execution and hardening application security in OT systems
- Recognize secure logging and monitoring for OT systems, endpoint protection and malware defenses
- Apply. file system and storage hardening, secure industrial protocols and communication and prevent lateral movement and privilege escalation
- Develop an incident response plan for OT systems and security forensics and threat intelligence in OT
- Carryout business continuity and disaster recovery for OT security including compliance audits and security assessments
- Automate OS hardening and security policies and implement group policies for secure configurations

Exclusive Smart Training Kit - H-STK®



*Participants of this course will receive the exclusive “Haward Smart Training Kit” (H-STK®). The H-STK® consists of a comprehensive set of technical content which includes **electronic version** of the course materials conveniently saved in a **Tablet PC**.*

Who Should Attend

This course provides an overview of all significant aspects and considerations of operating system hardening for OT environments for operational technology managers, compliance and risk managers, OT/ICS security engineers, network security professionals, industrial control system (ICS) engineers, system administrators for OT, IT/OT convergence specialists, OT system integrators, cybersecurity analysts/professionals for OT, vulnerability management specialists, incident response and forensics teams, industrial automation and SCADA operators, IT support staff for OT systems and security auditors for OT environments.

Course Certificate(s)

Internationally recognized certificates will be issued to all participants of the course who completed a minimum of 80% of the total tuition hours

Certificate Accreditations

Certificates are accredited by the following international accreditation organizations: -

- 
British Accreditation Council (BAC)

Haward Technology is accredited by the **British Accreditation Council** for **Independent Further and Higher Education** as an **International Centre**. BAC is the British accrediting body responsible for setting standards within independent further and higher education sector in the UK and overseas. As a BAC-accredited international centre, Haward Technology meets all of the international higher education criteria and standards set by BAC.

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The International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET - USA)

Haward Technology is an Authorized Training Provider by the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET), 2201 Cooperative Way, Suite 600, Herndon, VA 20171, USA. In obtaining this authority, Haward Technology has demonstrated that it complies with the **ANSI/IACET 2018-1 Standard** which is widely recognized as the standard of good practice internationally. As a result of our Authorized Provider membership status, Haward Technology is authorized to offer IACET CEUs for its programs that qualify under the **ANSI/IACET 2018-1 Standard**.

Haward Technology's courses meet the professional certification and continuing education requirements for participants seeking **Continuing Education Units** (CEUs) in accordance with the rules & regulations of the International Accreditors for Continuing Education & Training (IACET). IACET is an international authority that evaluates programs according to strict, research-based criteria and guidelines. The CEU is an internationally accepted uniform unit of measurement in qualified courses of continuing education.

Haward Technology Middle East will award **3.0 CEUs** (Continuing Education Units) or **30 PDHs** (Professional Development Hours) for participants who completed the total tuition hours of this program. One CEU is equivalent to ten Professional Development Hours (PDHs) or ten contact hours of the participation in and completion of Haward Technology programs. A permanent record of a participant's involvement and awarding of CEU will be maintained by Haward Technology. Haward Technology will provide a copy of the participant's CEU and PDH Transcript of Records upon request.

Course Instructor(s)

This course will be conducted by the following instructor(s). However, we have the right to change the course instructor(s) prior to the course date and inform participants accordingly:



Mr. Barry Pretorius is a **Senior Instrumentation Engineer** with almost **30** years of extensive experience within the **Oil, Gas, Petrochemical, Refinery & Power** industries. His expertise widely covers in the areas of **Cyber Security** Practitioner, **Cyber Security** of Industrial Control System, **IT Cyber Security** Best Practices, **Cybersecurity** Fundamentals, **Ethical Hacking & Penetration Testing**, **Cybersecurity** Risk Management, **Cybersecurity** Threat Intelligence, **OT Whitelisting** for Better Industrial Control System Defense, **NESA** Standard and Compliance Workshop, **OT, Cyber Attacks** Awareness - Malware/Ransom Ware / Virus /Trojan/ Phishing, **Information Security Manager, Security System** Installation and Maintenance, Security of Distributed Control System (**DCS**), Process Control, Instrumentation, Safeguarding & Security, Programmable Logic Controller (**PLC**), **Siemens PLC** Simatic S7-400/S7-300/S7-200, **PLC & SCADA** for Automation & Process Control, **Artificial Intelligence**, **Allen Bradley PLC** Programing and Hardware Trouble Shooting, **Schneider SCADA System, Wonder Ware, Emerson, Honeywell, Honeywell Safety Manager PLC, Yokogawa, Advanced DCS Yokogawa, Endress & Hauser**, Field Commissioning and Start up Testing Pre Operations, System Factory Acceptance Test (**FAT**), System Site Acceptance Test (**SAT**), **SCADA HMI & PLC** Control Logic, Implementation, Systems Testing, Commissioning and Startup, **Foxboro DCS & Triconics, SIS** Systems, **Drives**, Motion Control, **Hydraulics, Pneumatics and Control Systems** Engineering, **Electrical & Automation Control Systems, HV/MV Switchgear, LV & MV Switchgears & Circuit Breakers, High Voltage Electrical Safety, LV & HV Electrical System, HV Equipment** Inspection & Maintenance, **LV Distribution Switchgear & Equipment, Electrical Safety, Electrical Maintenance, Transformers, Medium & High Voltage Equipment, Circuit Breakers, Cable & Overhead Line** Troubleshooting & Maintenance, **Electrical Drawing & Schematics, Voltage Distribution, Power Distribution, Filters, Automation System, Electrical Variable Speed Drives, Power Systems, Power Generation, Diesel Generators, Power Stations, Uninterruptible Power Systems (UPS), Battery Chargers, AC & DC Transmission, CCTV Installation, Data & Fire Alarm System, Evacuation Systems and Electrical Motors & Variable Speed Drives**, & Control of Electrical and Electronic devices.

During Mr. Pretorius's career life, he has gained his practical experience through several significant positions and dedication as the **Senior Technical Analyst, Team Leader, Pre-operations Startup Engineer, Automation System's Software Manager, Automation System's Senior Project Engineer, PLC Specialist, Site Manager, Senior Project & Commissioning Engineer, Technical Director, Project Engineer, Radio Technician, A T E Technician** and **Senior Instructor/Trainer** from various companies like the **ADNOC Sour Gas, Ras Al Khair Aluminum Smelter, Johnson Matthey Pty. Ltd, Craigcor Engineering, Unitronics South Africa Pty (Ltd), Bridgestone/Firestone South Africa Pty (Ltd)** and **South African Defense Force**.

Mr. Pretorius's has a Higher Diploma in **Electrical Engineering Heavy Current**. Further, he is a **Certified Instructor/Trainer** and delivered numerous trainings, courses, workshops, seminars and conferences internationally.

Course Fee

Abu Dhabi	US\$ 5,500 per Delegate + VAT . This rate includes H-STK® (Haward Smart Training Kit), buffet lunch, coffee/tea on arrival, morning & afternoon of each day.
Istanbul	US\$ 6,000 per Delegate + VAT . This rate includes H-STK® (Haward Smart Training Kit), buffet lunch, coffee/tea on arrival, morning & afternoon of each day.
Dubai	US\$ 5,500 per Delegate + VAT . This rate includes H-STK® (Haward Smart Training Kit), buffet lunch, coffee/tea on arrival, morning & afternoon of each day.
Al Khobar	US\$ 5,500 per Delegate + VAT . This rate includes H-STK® (Haward Smart Training Kit), buffet lunch, coffee/tea on arrival, morning & afternoon of each day.

Training Methodology

All our Courses are including **Hands-on Practical Sessions** using equipment, State-of-the-Art Simulators, Drawings, Case Studies, Videos and Exercises. The courses include the following training methodologies as a percentage of the total tuition hours:-

- 30% Lectures
- 20% Practical Workshops & Work Presentations
- 30% Hands-on Practical Exercises & Case Studies
- 20% Simulators (Hardware & Software) & Videos

In an unlikely event, the course instructor may modify the above training methodology before or during the course for technical reasons.

Accommodation

Accommodation is not included in the course fees. However, any accommodation required can be arranged at the time of booking.

Course Program

The following program is planned for this course. However, the course instructor(s) may modify this program before or during the course for technical reasons with no prior notice to participants. Nevertheless, the course objectives will always be met:

Day 1

0730 – 0745	<i>Registration & Coffee</i>
0745 – 0800	<i>Welcome & Introduction</i>
0800 – 0815	PRE-TEST
0815 – 0930	Overview of Operational Technology (OT) Security <i>Differences Between IT and OT Security • Common Threats in OT Environments • Impact of Cyber Threats on Petroleum Operations • Regulatory and Compliance Requirements for OT Security</i>
0930 – 0945	<i>Break</i>
0945 – 1045	Introduction to Operating System Hardening <i>Definition and Importance of OS Hardening • OS Hardening vs. Standard Security Measures • Challenges of OS Hardening in Industrial Control Systems (ICS) • Key Hardening Strategies for Windows and Linux</i>

1045 - 1130	Threat Landscape for OT Systems Overview of Cyber Threats to Industrial Control Systems • Common Attack Vectors Targeting OT Networks • Case Studies of Industrial Cybersecurity Incidents • Threat Model for OT Environments
1130 – 1230	Regulatory & Compliance Standards for OT Security IEC 62443 and NIST Cybersecurity Framework • ISO 27001 and Compliance Requirements • UAE Cybersecurity Regulations for Critical Infrastructure • Industry Best Practices for OT Security
1230 – 1245	Break
1245– 1330	Risk Assessment & Security Baselines for OT Operating Systems Identifying Security Risks in OT Networks • Vulnerability Assessment for OT Operating Systems • Security Configuration Baselines (CIS Benchmarks, STIGs) • Approach to OT Security Risk Management
1330 – 1420	Hardening Strategies for Windows & Linux in OT Security Considerations for Windows in OT Environments • Security Considerations for Linux in OT Environments • Comparing Windows and Linux Hardening Approaches • Selecting an OS Hardening Strategy for Industrial Systems
1420 – 1430	Recap Using this Course Overview, the Instructor(s) will Brief Participants about the Topics that were Discussed Today and Advise Them of the Topics to be Discussed Tomorrow
1430	Lunch & End of Day One

Day 2

0730 – 0830	Secure Installation & Patch Management Best Practices for Secure OS Installation • Patch Management in OT Environments • Managing Security Updates Without Disrupting Operations • Patch Management Policy for OT Systems
0830 – 0930	Secure User & Account Management Least Privilege Access Principle (LPA) • Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) Implementation • Securing Administrative and Service Accounts • Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) in OT Networks
0930 – 0945	Break
0945 – 1100	Configuring Secure Remote Access for OT Systems Risks of Remote Access in OT Environments • Best Practices for Secure Remote Access • VPNs and Zero Trust Architectures in OT • Remote Access Security Policies
1100 – 1230	Network Segmentation & Isolation Strategies The Purdue Model for Industrial Control Systems • Segmenting IT and OT Networks • VLANs, Firewalls, and DMZs for OT Security • Secure Communication Protocols for OT Networks
1230 – 1245	Break
1245 – 1330	Hardening Services & Processes Disabling Unnecessary Services and Features • Secure Configuration of Background Processes • System Resource Hardening for Stability and Security • Guidelines for Service Optimization in OT

1330 – 1420	Implementing Secure Boot & Trusted Execution Secure Boot in Windows and Linux • Trusted Platform Module (TPM) and Hardware Security • Protecting Bootloaders and Kernel Integrity • Secure Boot Policies for OT Environments
1420 – 1430	Recap Using this Course Overview, the Instructor(s) will Brief Participants about the Topics that were Discussed Today and Advise Them of the Topics to be Discussed Tomorrow
1430	Lunch & End of Day Two

Day 3

0730 – 0830	Hardening Application Security in OT Systems Securing Industrial Applications and SCADA Systems • Whitelisting and Application Control Policies • Restricting Unauthorized Software Installation • Application Security Policies for OT
0830 – 0930	Secure Logging & Monitoring for OT Systems Importance of Logging and Monitoring in OT Security • Configuring Secure Audit Logs • Centralized Logging Solutions (SIEM, Syslog, Event Logs) • Incident Detection and Response Strategies
0930 – 0945	Break
0915 – 1100	Endpoint Protection & Malware Defenses Deploying Antivirus and Endpoint Detection & Response (EDR) • Securing OT Systems Against Ransomware and Malware • Sandboxing and Behavioral Analysis Techniques • Endpoint Security Framework for OT Systems
1100 – 1230	File System & Storage Hardening Encrypting Sensitive OT Data • Implementing File Integrity Monitoring (FIM) • Securing Network Storage and Backup Systems • Secure Storage and Data Retention Policies
1230 – 1245	Break
1245 – 1330	Securing Industrial Protocols & Communication Common OT Communication Protocols (Modbus, DNP3, OPC-UA) • Secure Configuration of Protocols in Industrial Networks • Preventing Protocol Spoofing and Man-in-the-Middle Attacks • Secure Communication Framework for OT Systems
1300 – 1420	Preventing Lateral Movement & Privilege Escalation Attackers' Tactics for Lateral Movement in OT Networks • Preventing Privilege Escalation Through OS Hardening • Network Access Controls to Restrict Lateral Movement • Internal Threat Detection and Response Plan
1420 – 1430	Recap Using this Course Overview, the Instructor(s) will Brief Participants about the Topics that were Discussed Today and Advise Them of the Topics to be Discussed Tomorrow
1430	Lunch & End of Day Three



Day 4

0730 – 0830	Developing an Incident Response Plan for OT Systems Incident Detection and Response Strategies • Cyber Kill Chain and MITRE ATT&CK Framework • Building an OT-Specific Incident Response Plan • Incident Response Readiness for OT
0830 – 0930	Security Forensics & Threat Intelligence in OT Conducting Forensic Analysis on OT Systems • Capturing and Analyzing OT Network Traffic • Threat Intelligence Sharing and Reporting • Approach to Threat Intelligence in OT
0930 – 0945	Break
0930 -1115	Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery for OT Security Creating Redundant and Resilient OT Systems • Backup Strategies for Critical OT Infrastructure • Disaster Recovery Planning for OT Networks • Testing and Validating Recovery Plans
1115 – 1230	Compliance Audits & Security Assessments Performing OS Hardening Audits in OT Systems • Using Security Benchmarks for Compliance (CIS, NIST, IEC 62443) • Conducting Vulnerability Assessments and Penetration Testing • Internal and External Security Audits
1230 – 1245	Break
1245 – 1420	Automating OS Hardening & Security Policies Automating OS Security Updates and Patching • Implementing Group Policies (GPOs) for Secure Configurations • Scripting Security Configurations with PowerShell & Bash • Automation Strategy for OT Cybersecurity
1420 – 1430	Recap Using this Course Overview, the Instructor(s) will Brief Participants about the Topics that were Discussed Today and Advise Them of the Topics to be Discussed Tomorrow
1430	Lunch & End of Day Four

Day5

0730 – 0930	Case Study: Real-World OT Cyber Incidents & Lessons Learned Review of Major OT Cyber Attacks (Stuxnet, Triton, BlackEnergy) • Lessons Learned for OS Hardening in Operations • Response to Evolving Cyber Threats • Future Roadmap for OS Security
0930 - 0945	Break
0945 – 1100	Hands-on Lab: OS Hardening for Windows in OT Implementing Secure Configuration Policies • Disabling Unnecessary Services and Features • Setting Up Secure Firewall Rules • Creating a Hardened Windows Image for OT
1100 – 1230	Hands-on Lab: OS Hardening for Linux in OT Secure User Account and Access Control Setup • Configuring SELinux and AppArmor • Implementing Secure Logging and Monitoring • Creating a Hardened Linux Image for OT
1230 – 1245	Break



1245 – 1345	Final Security Assessment & Audit <i>Evaluating OS Security Configurations • Conducting Security Baseline Compliance Checks • Identifying and Fixing Security Gaps • Preparing for OT Security Certification</i>
1345 – 1400	Course Conclusion <i>Using this Course Overview, the Instructor(s) will Brief Participants about the Course Topics that were Covered During the Course</i>
1400 – 1415	POST-TEST
1415 – 1430	<i>Presentation of Course Certificates</i>
1430	<i>Lunch & End of Course</i>

Simulator (Hands-on Practical Sessions)

Practical sessions will be organized during the course for delegates to practice the theory learnt. Delegates will be provided with an opportunity to carryout various exercises using one of our state-of-the-art simulators “Allen Bradley SLC 500”, “AB Micrologix 1000 (Digital or Analog)”, “AB SLC5/03”, “AB WS5610 PLC”, “Siemens S7-1200”, “Siemens S7-400”, “Siemens SIMATIC S7-300”, “Siemens S7-200”, “GE Fanuc Series 90-30 PLC”, “Siemens SIMATIC Step 7 Professional Software”, “HMI SCADA”, “Gas Ultrasonic Meter Sizing Tool”, “Liquid Turbine Meter and Control Valve Sizing Tool”, “Liquid Ultrasonic Meter Sizing Tool” , “Orifice Flow Calculator”, “Automation Simulator” and “PLCLogix 5000 Software”.



Allen Bradley SLC 500 Simulator



Allen Bradley Micrologix 1000 Simulator (Digital)



Allen Bradley Micrologix 1000 Simulator (Analog)



Allen Bradley SLC 5/03



Allen Bradley WS5610 PLC Simulator PLC5



Siemens S7-1200 Simulator



Siemens S7-400 Simulator



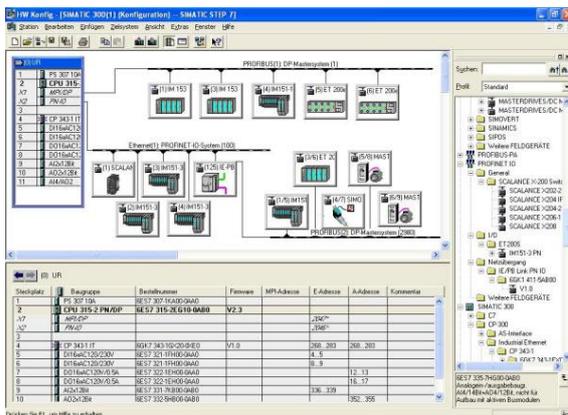
Siemens SIMATIC S7-300



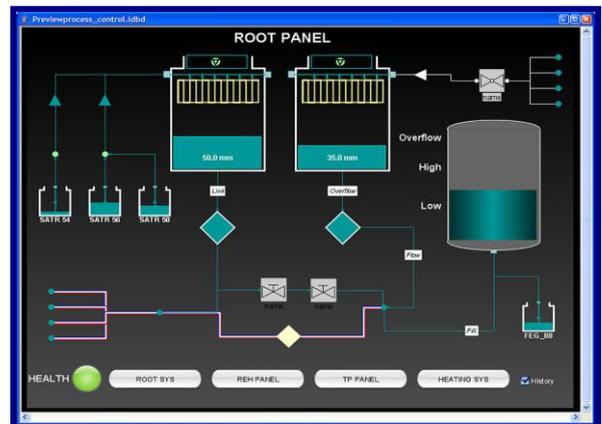
Siemens S7-200 Simulator



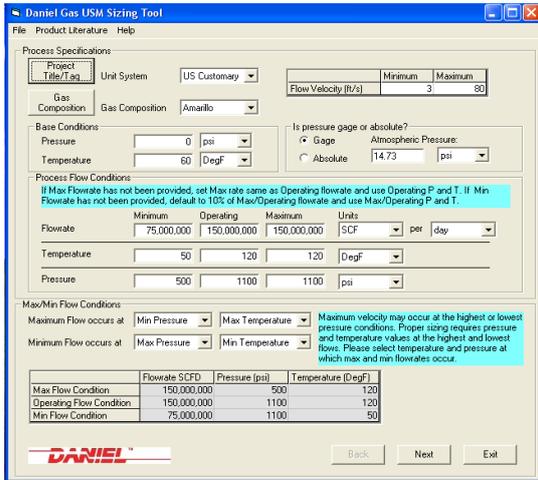
GE Fanuc Series 90-30 PLC Simulator



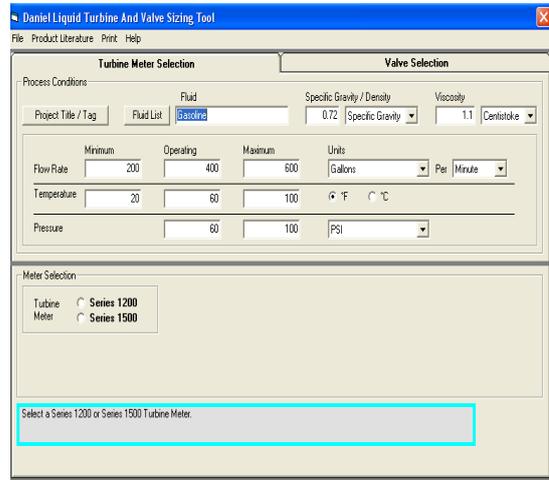
Siemens SIMATIC Step 7 Professional Software



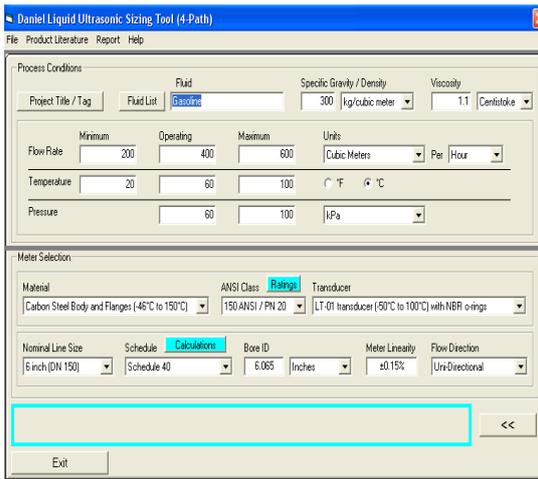
HMI SCADA



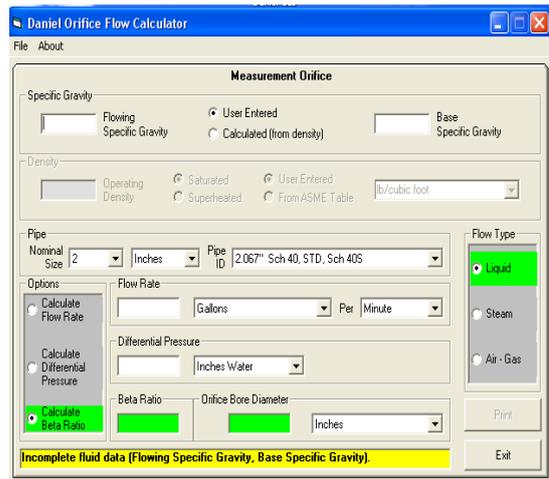
Gas Ultrasonic Meter (USM) Sizing Tool Simulator



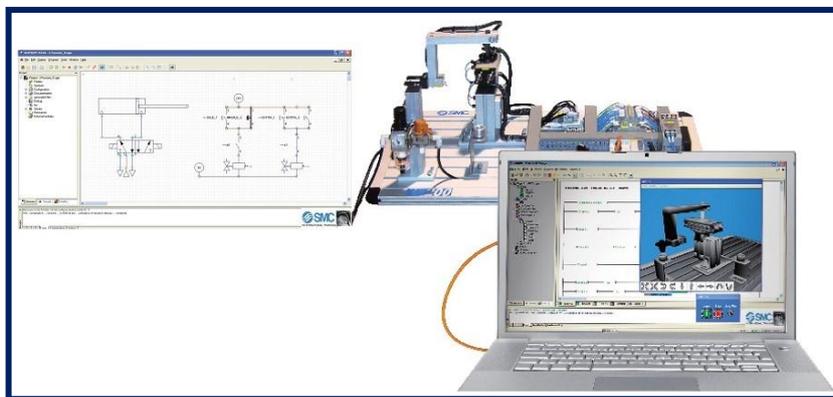
Liquid Turbine Meter and Control Valve Sizing Tool Simulator



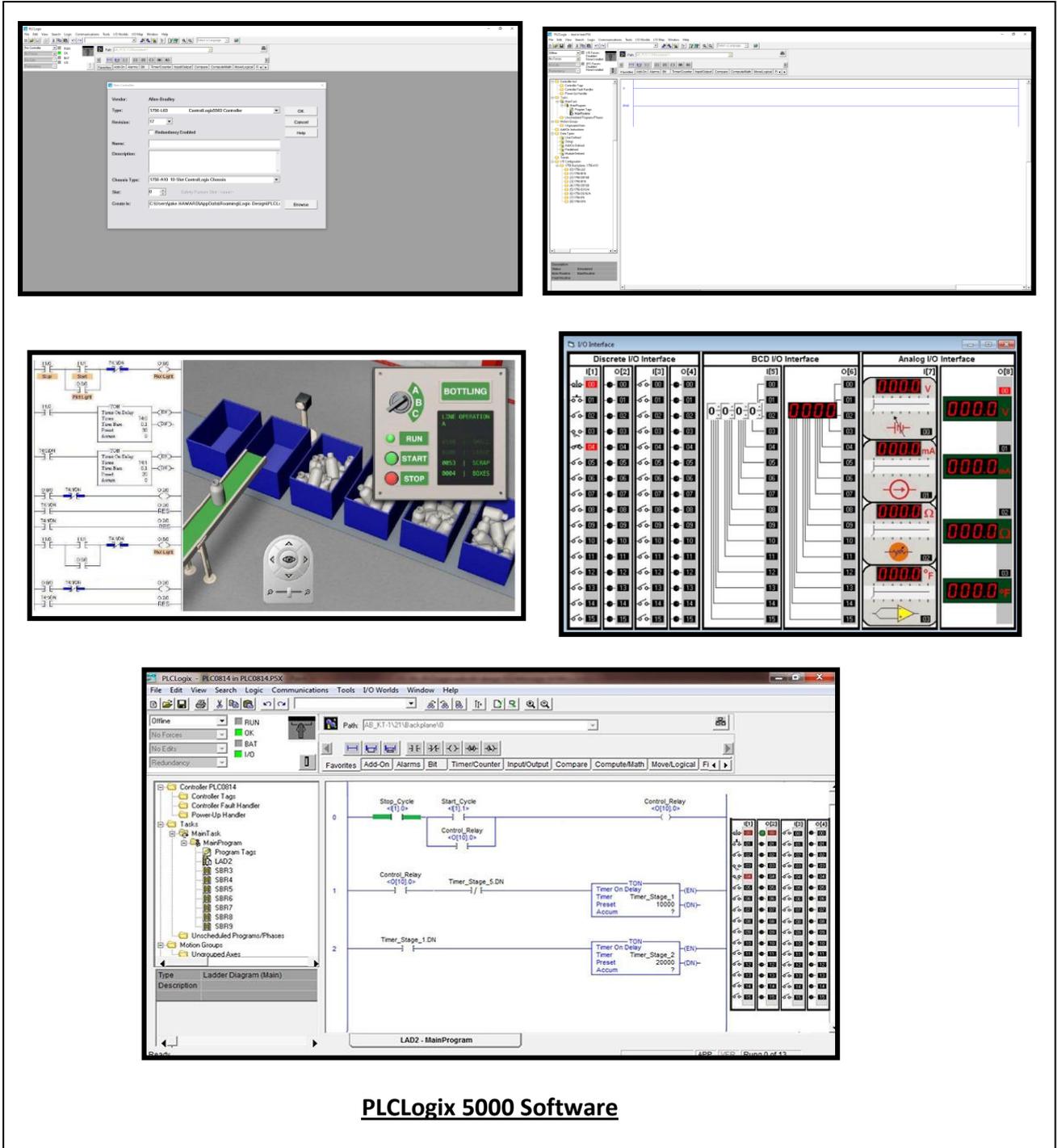
Liquid Ultrasonic Meter Sizing Tool Simulator



Orifice Flow Calculator Simulator



AutoSIM – 200 Automation Simulator



The image displays three screenshots from a PLC configuration software interface:

- Top Left:** A dialog box for selecting a PLC controller. The 'Name' field is 'ControlLogix5000 Controller'. The 'Type' is '1756-L01'. The 'Description' field is empty. The 'Choose Type' dropdown is set to '1756-A01 10 Slot ControlLogix Chassis'. The 'Slot' is '1'. The 'Create In' field is 'C:\Program Files\Rockwell Automation\Software\PLC5000\Emu\EmuPLC5000'. Buttons for 'OK', 'Cancel', and 'Help' are visible.
- Top Right:** A screenshot of the software's main interface showing a tree view on the left and a large empty workspace on the right.
- Middle Left:** A 3D CAD model of a bottling machine. A control panel is overlaid on the machine with buttons for 'RUN', 'START', and 'STOP'. A 'BOTTLING' indicator is also present. To the left of the model is a ladder logic diagram with various logic elements like timers and relays.
- Middle Right:** A screenshot of the 'I/O Interface' configuration window. It is divided into three sections: 'Discrete I/O Interface', 'BCD I/O Interface', and 'Analog I/O Interface'. Each section shows a grid of input and output modules with their respective addresses and configurations.
- Bottom:** A screenshot of the 'PLCLogix 5000 Software' showing a ladder logic program. The main window displays a ladder logic diagram with rungs. The first rung has a 'Stop_Cycle' timer (T1) and a 'Control_Relay' (Q10). The second rung has a 'Control_Relay' (Q10) and a 'Timer Stage 5 DN' timer (T5). The third rung has a 'Timer Stage 1 DN' timer (T1) and a 'Timer Stage 1' timer (T1). The fourth rung has a 'Timer Stage 1 DN' timer (T1) and a 'Timer Stage 2' timer (T2). The fifth rung has a 'Timer Stage 2' timer (T2) and a 'Timer Stage 2' timer (T2). The software interface includes a menu bar, a toolbar, and a project tree on the left.

PLCLogix 5000 Software

Course Coordinator

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