

# NEXT-GENERATION SCADA HIGH PERFORMANCE HUMAN MACHINE INTERFACES

Configuring HMIs to Display “Operator-centric” Information

Ryan Kowalski, PE; Ed Kowalski, PE

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# Today's Presenter



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# Learning Objectives



- Recognize key components of a plant or facility  
**Human Machine Interface (HMI)**  
Define **situational awareness** as it relates to SCADA systems and identify common HMI pitfalls working against it
- Describe how High Performance HMI (HPHMI) **concepts** serve to enhance situational awareness
- Identify how **methodologies** such as ANSI/ISA 18.2 alarm management approach support HPHMI and are critical to SCADA system success
- Outline how to **benchmark and measure** the performance of HPHMIs and related alarm management systems

# Introduction

Automation and SCADA systems are **fundamental** to water resource plant operations

Operators struggle with **massive amounts** of alarms, increasing screen counts and I/O

Information is presented in ways that may not enhance **situational awareness**



# Agenda

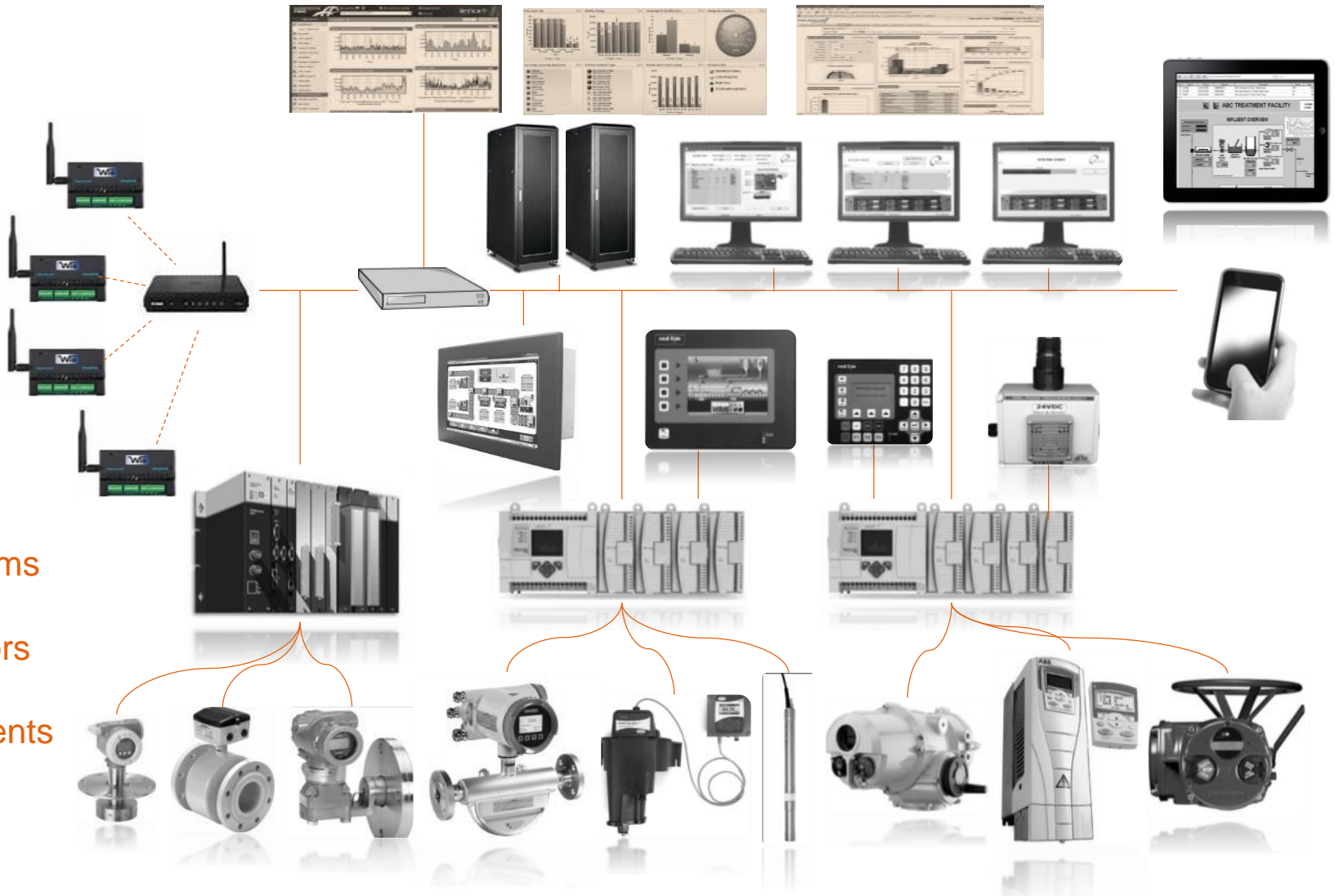


1. Background of HMI Engineering
2. Situational Awareness
3. “High Performance” HMI
4. Examples of Implementing HPHMI Engineering
5. Alarm Management – An integral part of HPHMI

# 1. BACKGROUND OF HMI ENGINEERING

# SCADA Components

- Enterprise Systems
- Remote Site Telemetry
- HMI/OIT
- Controllers
- Packaged Vendor Systems
- VFDs/Actuators
- Field Instruments





# HMI Components

Enterprise Systems

Remote Site Telemetry

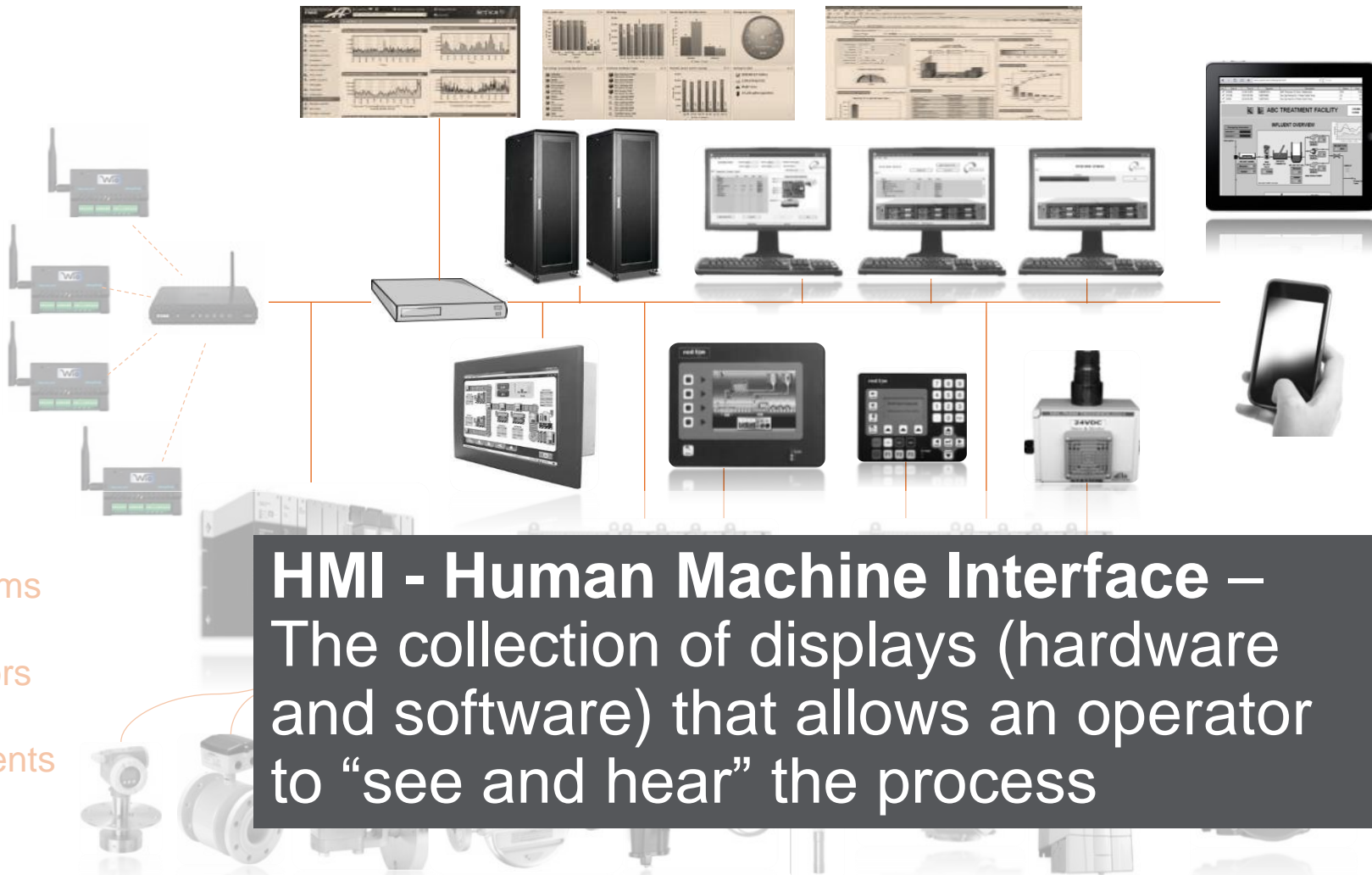
HMI/OIT

Controllers

Packaged Vendor Systems

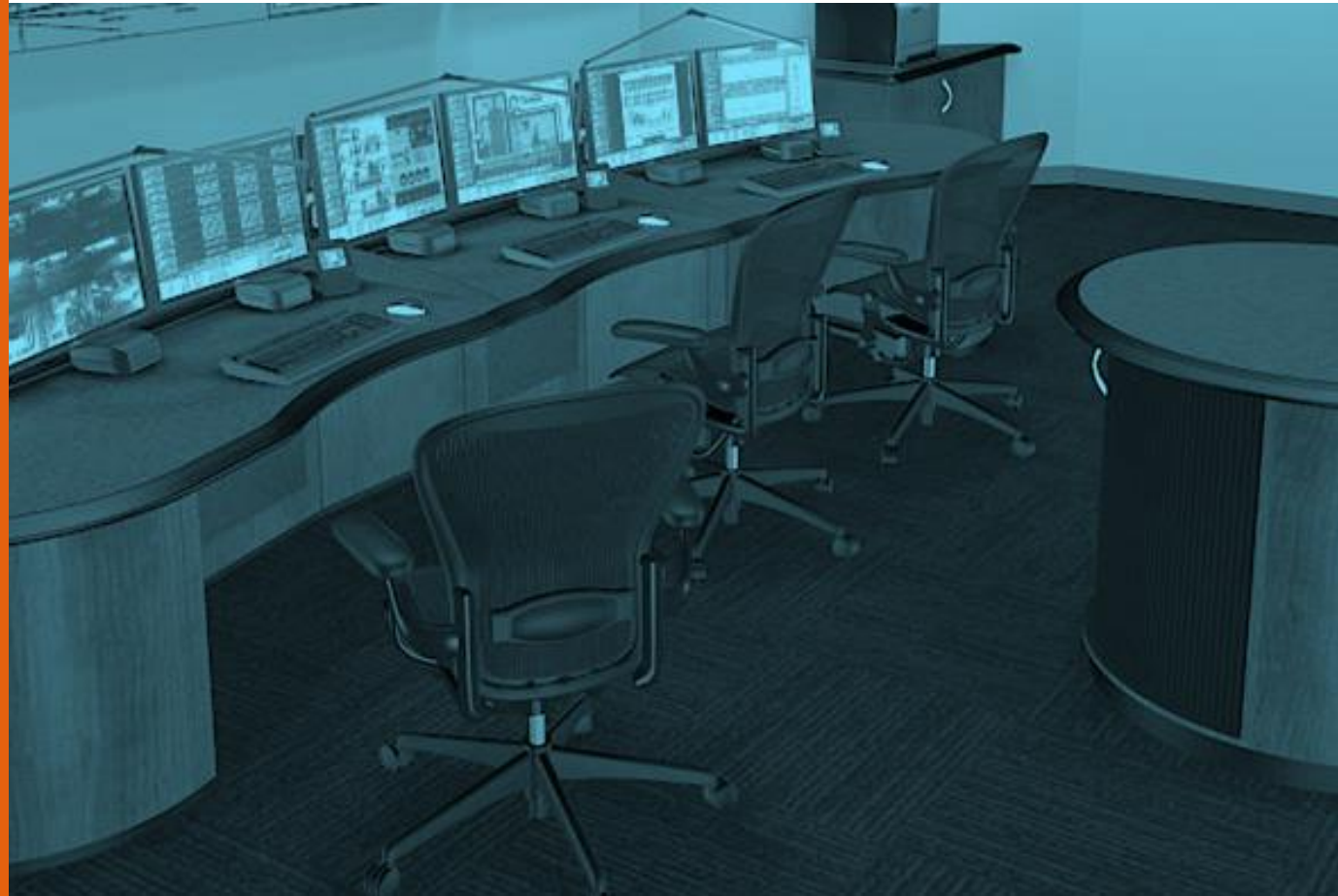
VFDs/Actuators

Field Instruments



# The Plant Control Room

- Monitors
- Computer Screens
- Graphics
- Console Stations
- Mouse & Keyboard
- Portable Devices
- Alarm Lights
- Audible Devices



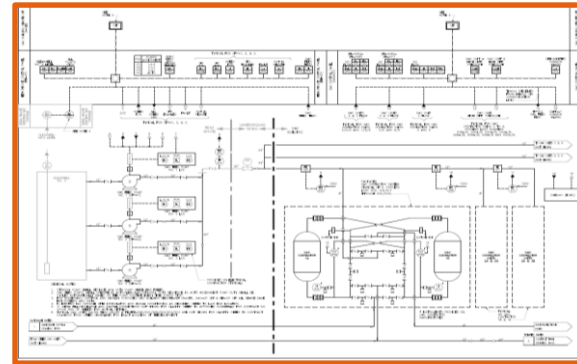
# History of HMIs: ...80s, early 90s



# History of HMIs: 90s/00s

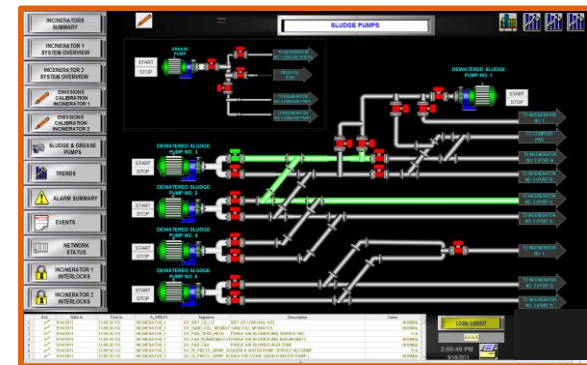
## Computerized SCADA systems

*Control engineer prepares Process and Instrumentation Diagrams (P&IDs)*



*HMI software provides toolkits, features, objects, colors*

*Contractor/System Integrator configures HMI based on P&IDs and specifications*





## 2. SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

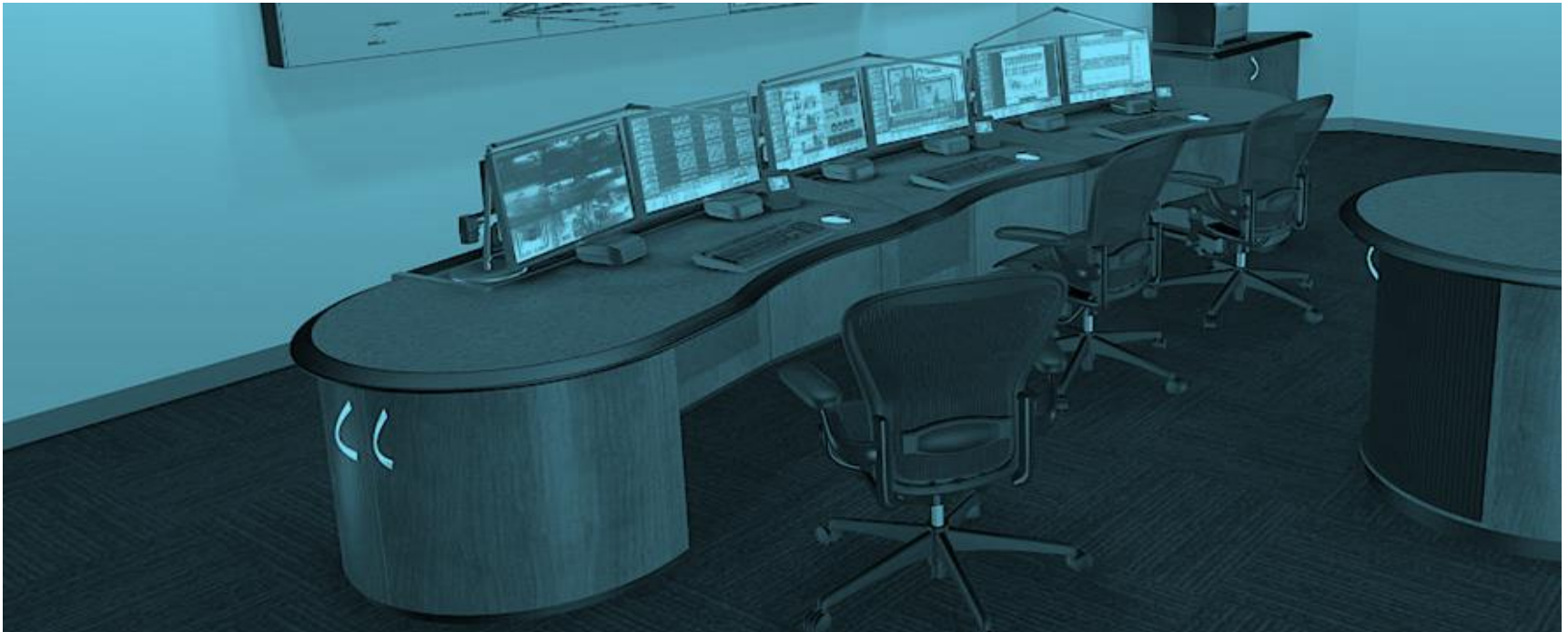
# Situational Awareness (SA)



*Boeing 777 Cockpit*

Situational awareness (SA) is the **perception** of environmental elements with respect to time or space, the **comprehension** of their meaning, and the **projection** of their status after some variable has changed, such as time, or some other variable, such as a predetermined event.

# Situational Awareness (SA)



“The relationship between the operator's understanding of the plant's condition and its actual condition at any given time”

- *(International Society of Automation (ISA))*



# HMI Impacts to SA

Performance shaping factors:

“Attention tunneling”

Reliance on Short-term  
Memory

Physical and mental stress

Too much data

Misplaced emphasis

Increasing Complexity

Improper Mental Model

Automation, loss of  
institutional knowledge (“out-  
of-the-loop”) syndrome

Source: Designing for Situational Awareness: An Approach to User-Centered Design, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Endsley

# “Too much data” “Increasing Complexity”

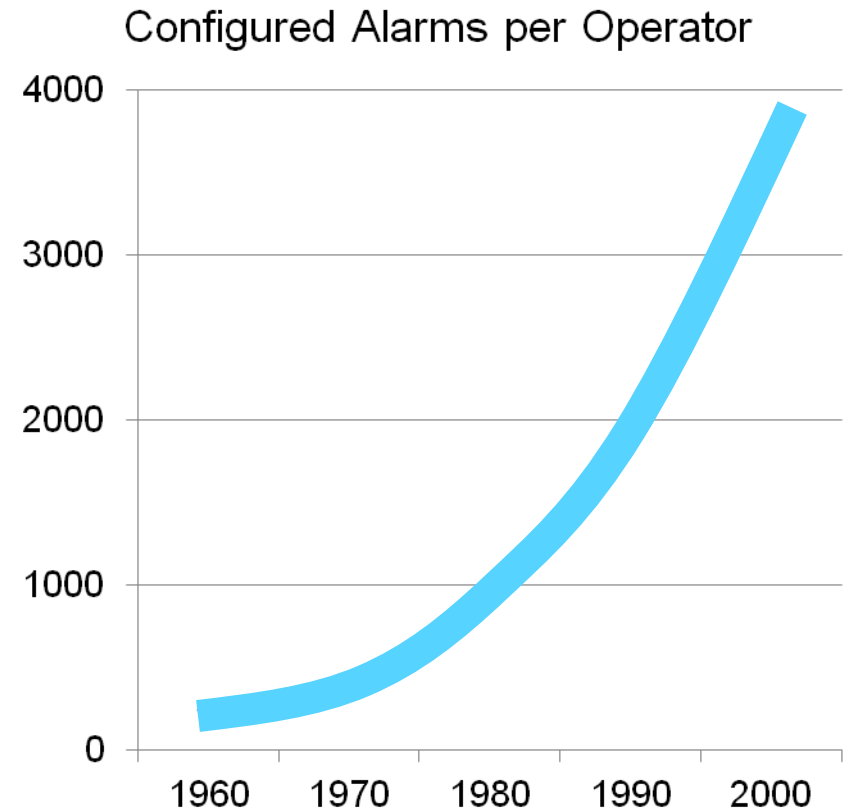
Too many alarms

Too many options

Easy to configure

Built-in alarms for analog

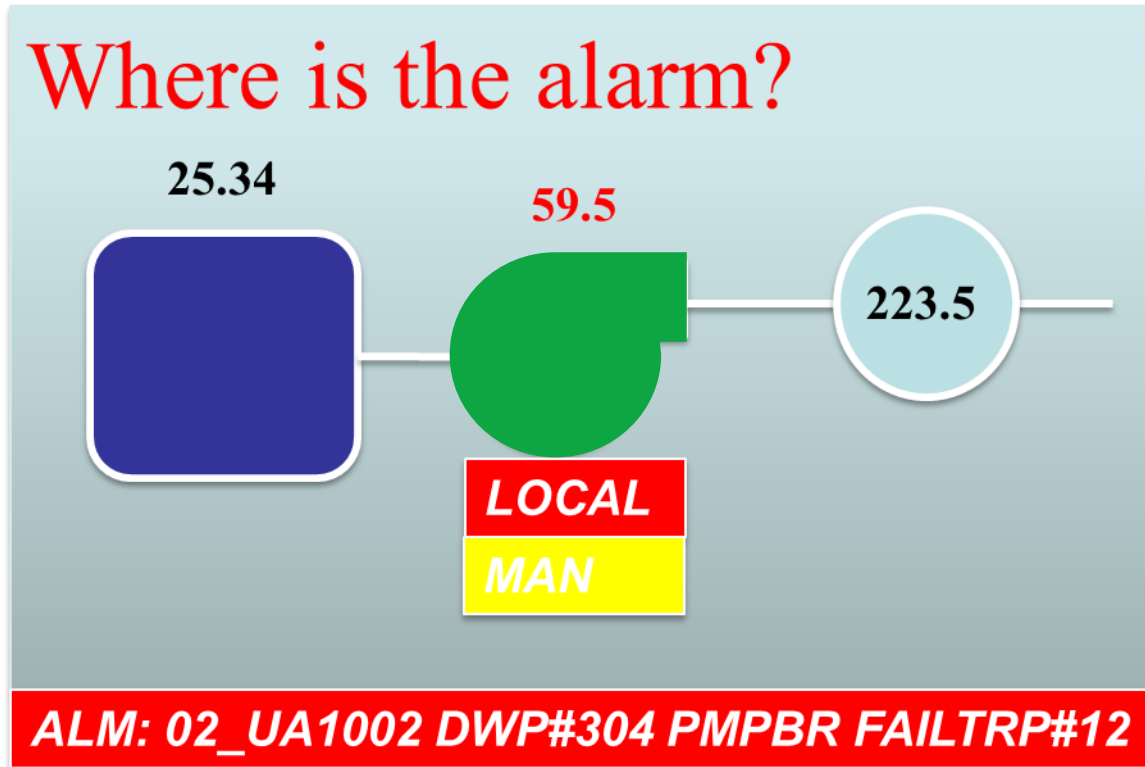
Custom graphics development



# “Attention Tunneling” “Loss of View”



# “Misplaced Emphasis” “Too much data”



## 3. “HIGH PERFORMANCE” HMI

# High Performance HMI

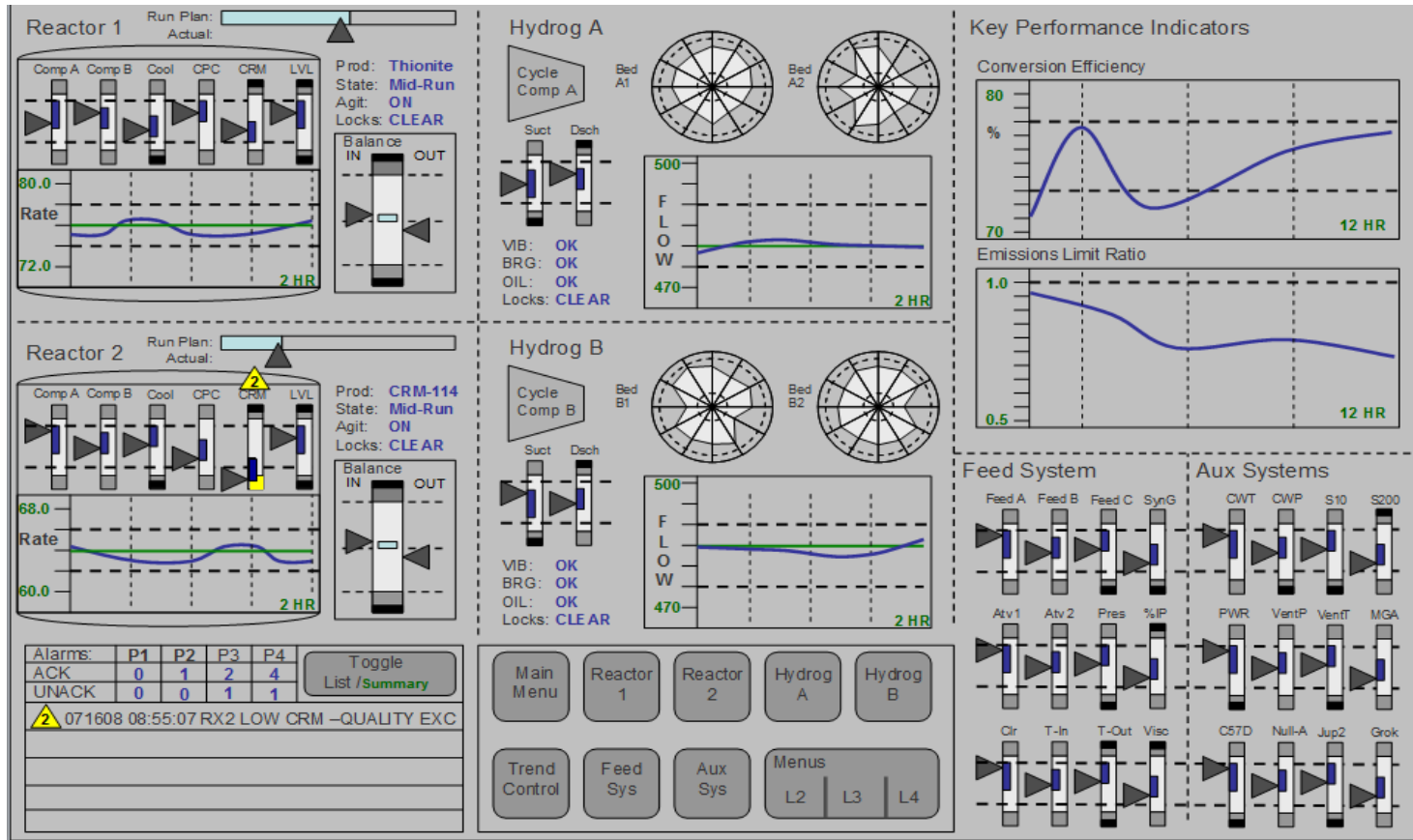


Terms:

- “High Performance”
- “High Impact”
- “Next Generation”
- “Situational Awareness”

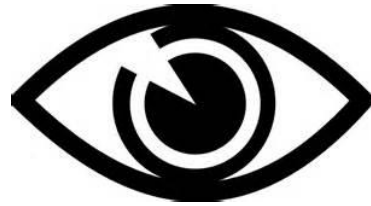
*HPHMI - Providing an interface to the process that is **operator-centric**, and focuses on **human factors**, the operator’s **mental model**, and enhancing the operator’s **situational awareness**.*

# Vision



Source: HMI Handbook

# Vision



## Display

- Contrast
- Repetition
- Alignment
- Proximity



## Graphic Development

- **Use of Color and Shape**
- **Use of Patterns**
- **Use of Trends**

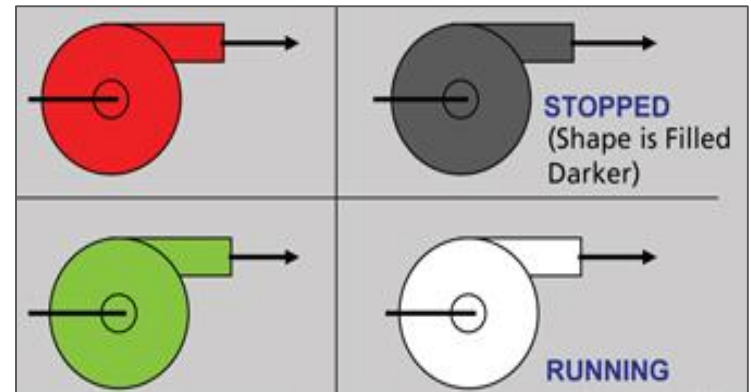
Source: Stock Photo



# Use of Color and Shape

Use color and shape to focus attention

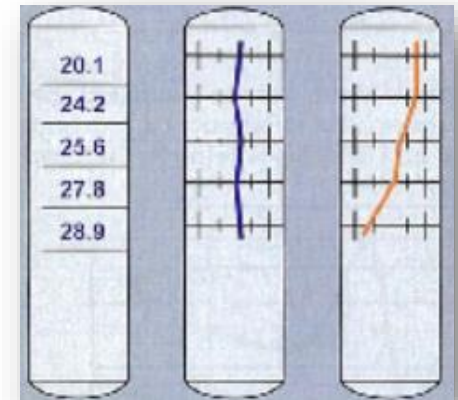
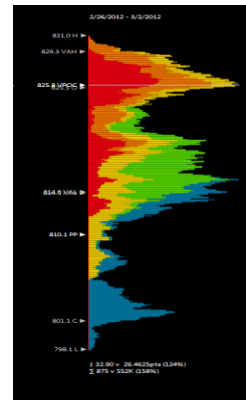
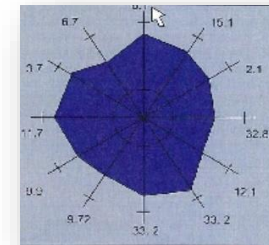
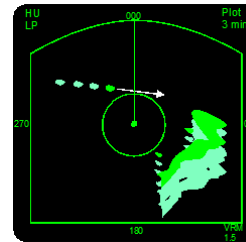
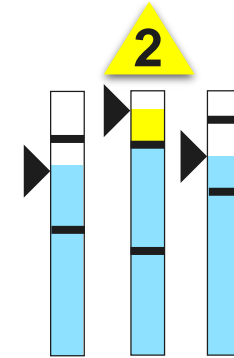
- Muted Background (Gray)
- Avoid Run/ Stop/ Open/Close Color, use contrast instead
- Indicate alarms with both color and shape



Source: *The High Performance HMI Handbook (Hollifield et al., 2008)*.

# Use of Patterns and Analog Indicators

- “At-a-Glance”
- Analog Indicator
- Pattern Recognition Objects (PROs)
  - Profile Displays
  - Radar Plots



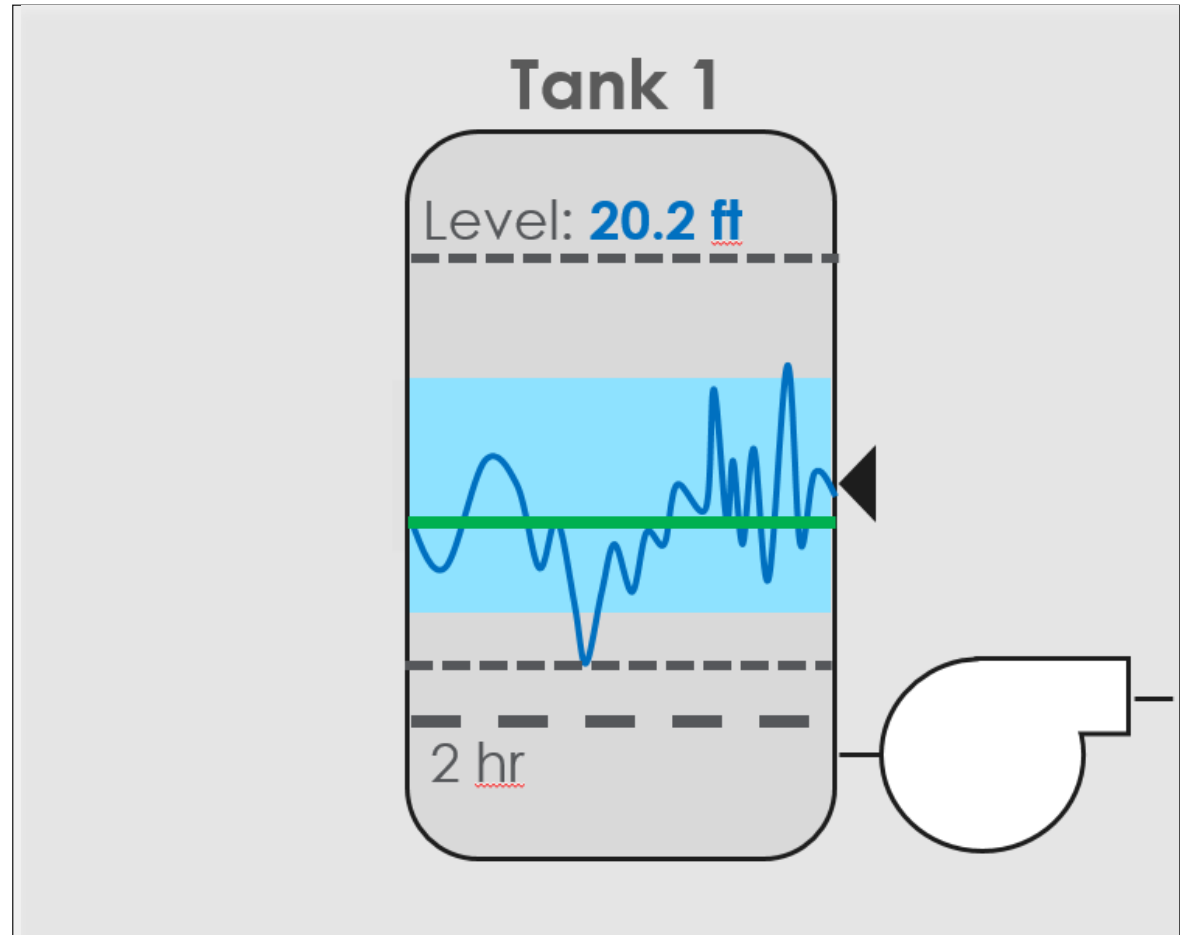
# Use of Analog – Car HMI Example



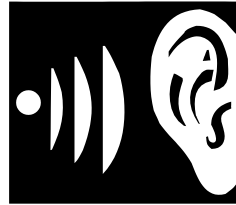
**Useful to the driver (operator)?**

# Use of Trends

- Enhanced use of trends
- Embedded “road-map” trending
- Features:
  - Alarm and shutdown levels
  - Setpoints
  - Time interval



# Hearing



Ability for humans to distinguish sounds is exceptional.

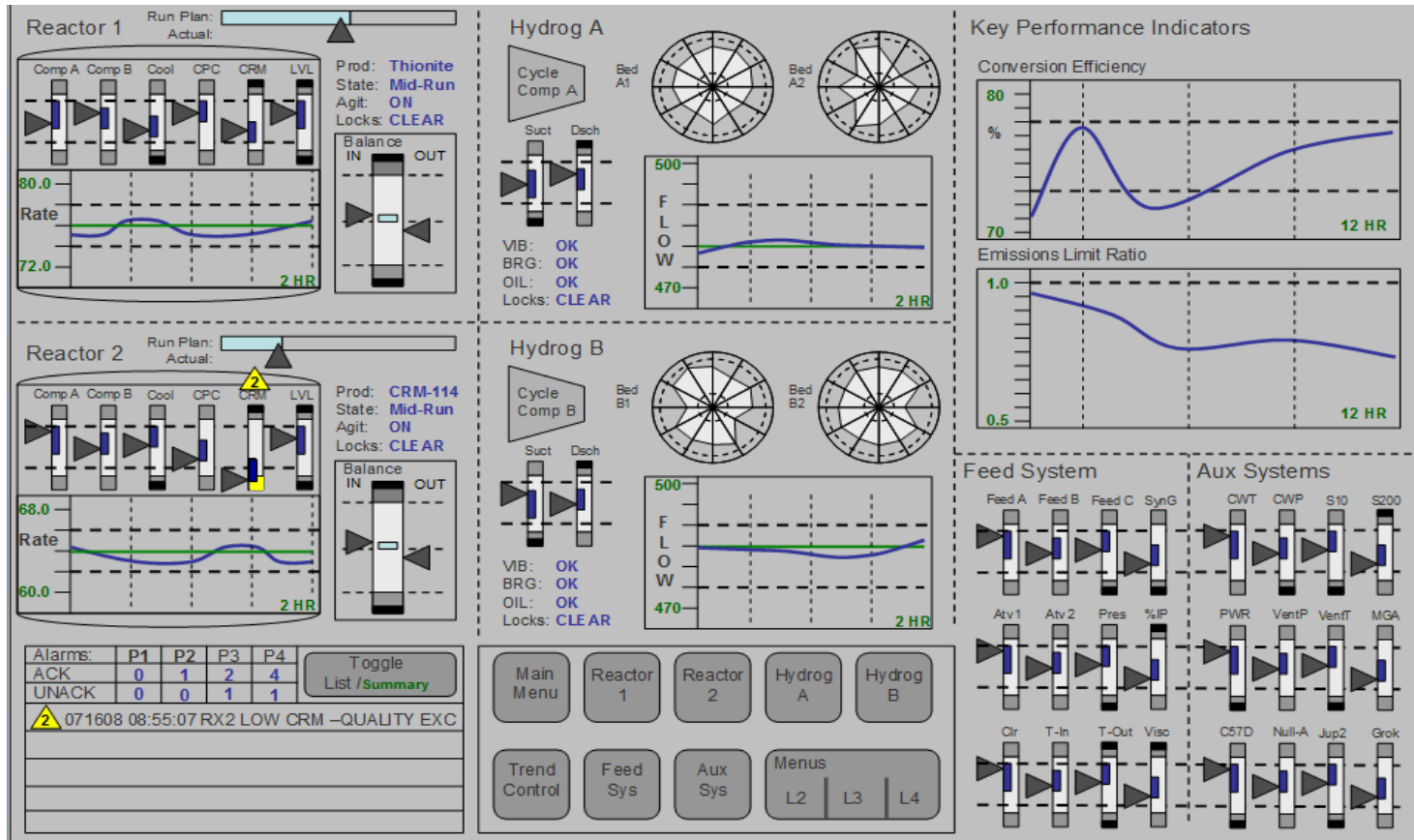
**Example:** Car HMI unique sounds:

- Driver opens the door with keys in the ignition
- There is low tire pressure
- Outside temperature falls below 3C (37F)
- The windshield washer fluid is low



Source: Stock Photo

# High Performance HMI



Source: HMI Handbook

# ISA Standard 101 – HMI Lifecycle Model

## *ANSI/ISA 101 (2015) Human Machine Interfaces for Process Automation Systems*

- Builds on and brings together threads from various sources (industry / academic partners)
- Establishes consistent approach to HMI development (process industries)

*API 1165 Recommended Practice for Pipeline SCADA Displays*

*ASM Consortium Guidelines Rev 3-2008 Effective Operator Display Design*

*ANSI/HFES 100-2007 Human Factors Engineering of Computer Workstations*

*ANSI/HFES 200-2008 Human Factors Engineering of Software User Interfaces*

*ISO 9241 Ergonomic requirements for office work with display terminals*

*ISO 11064 Ergonomic design of control centers*

*EEMUA 201 Process plant control desks utilizing human-computer interfaces: a guide to design and human-computer interfaces*

*NUREG-0700 Rev. 2-2002 Human-System Interface Design Review Guidelines*

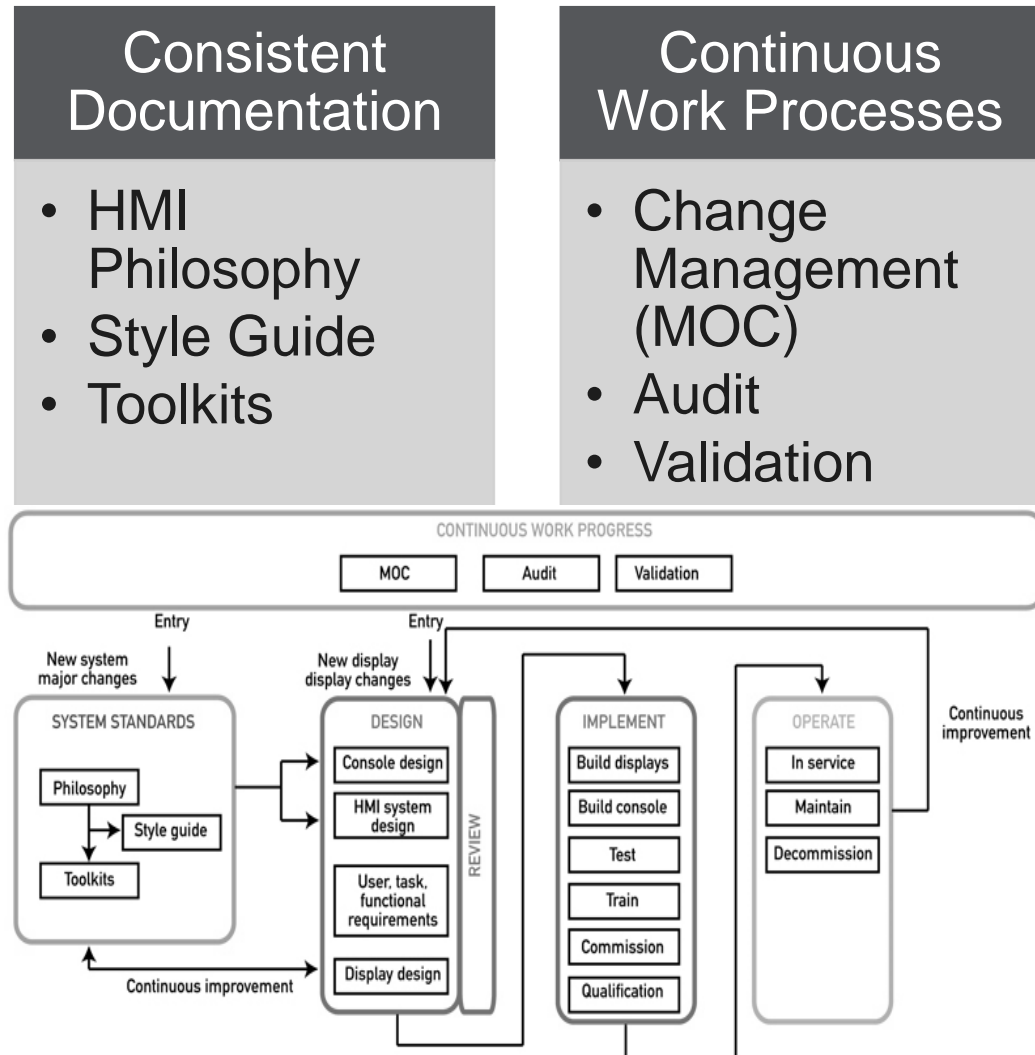
# ISA Standard 101 – Lifecycle Approach

Considerations of sensory and cognitive limits of operators, situational awareness, ergonomics

Focus is on HMI lifecycle

## Custom Approach

- HMI Philosophy
- Style Guide



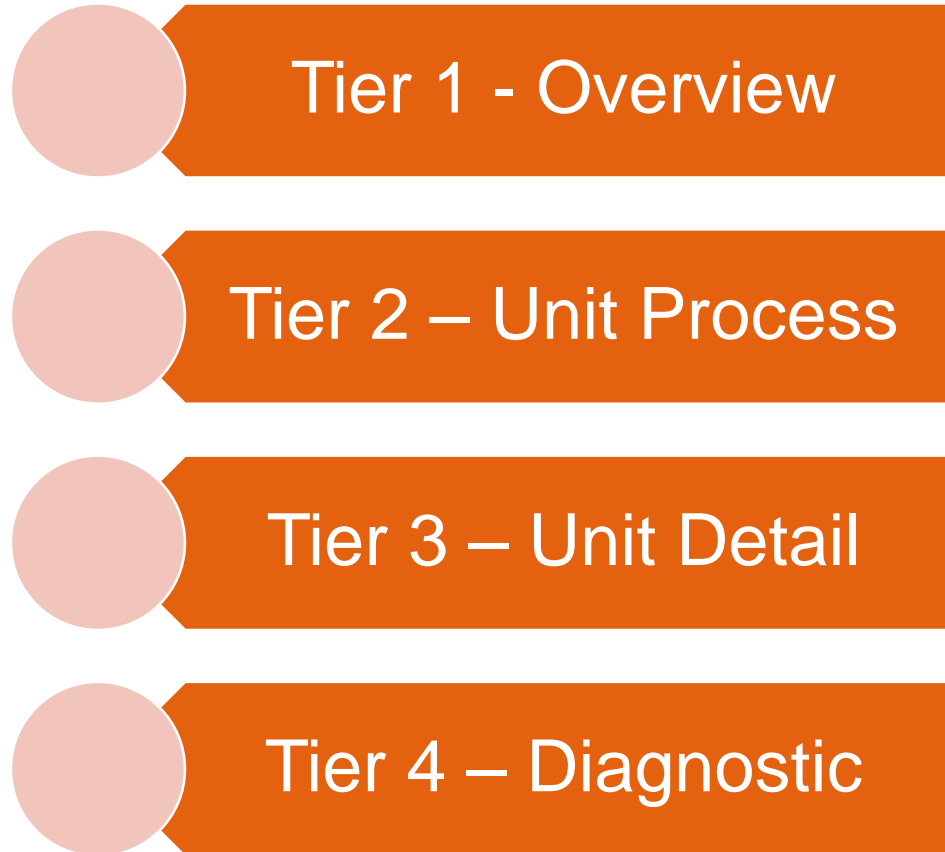


# Tiers of HPHMI

Philosophy

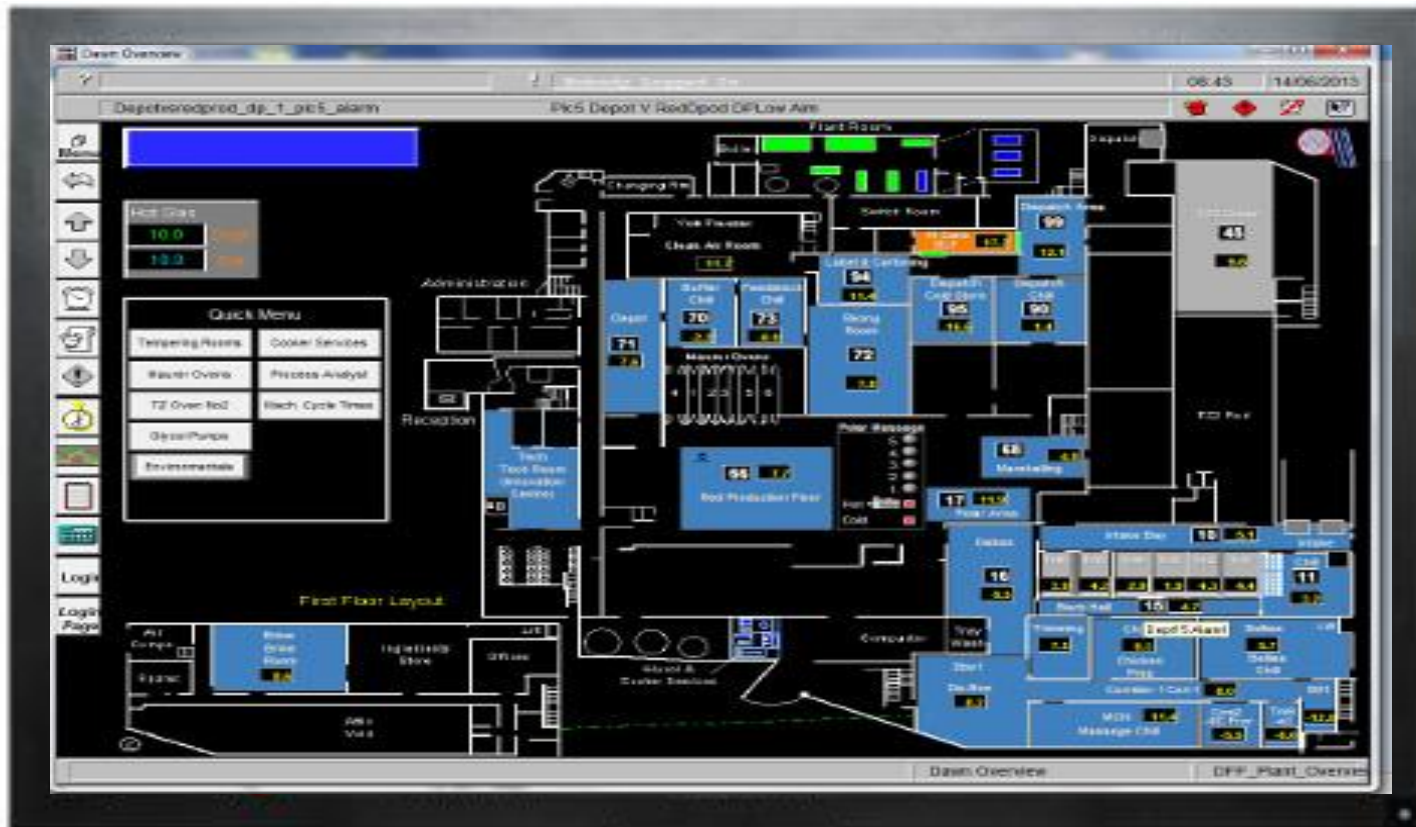
Navigation

Style Guide



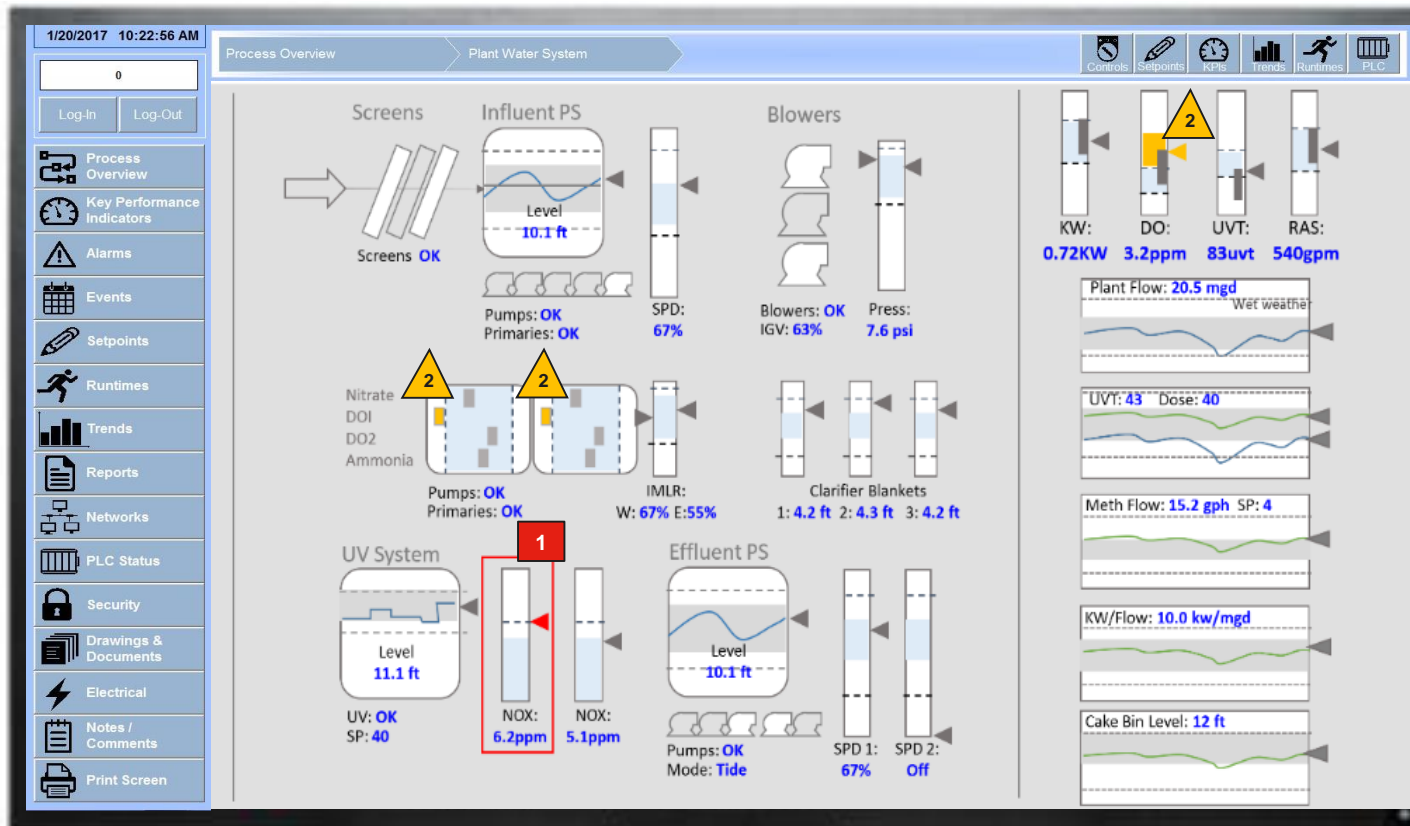
## 4. EXAMPLES OF HPHMI IMPLEMENTATION

# Example – Tier 1 – Plant Overview



Is the plant doing OK?

# Example – Tier 1 – Plant Overview



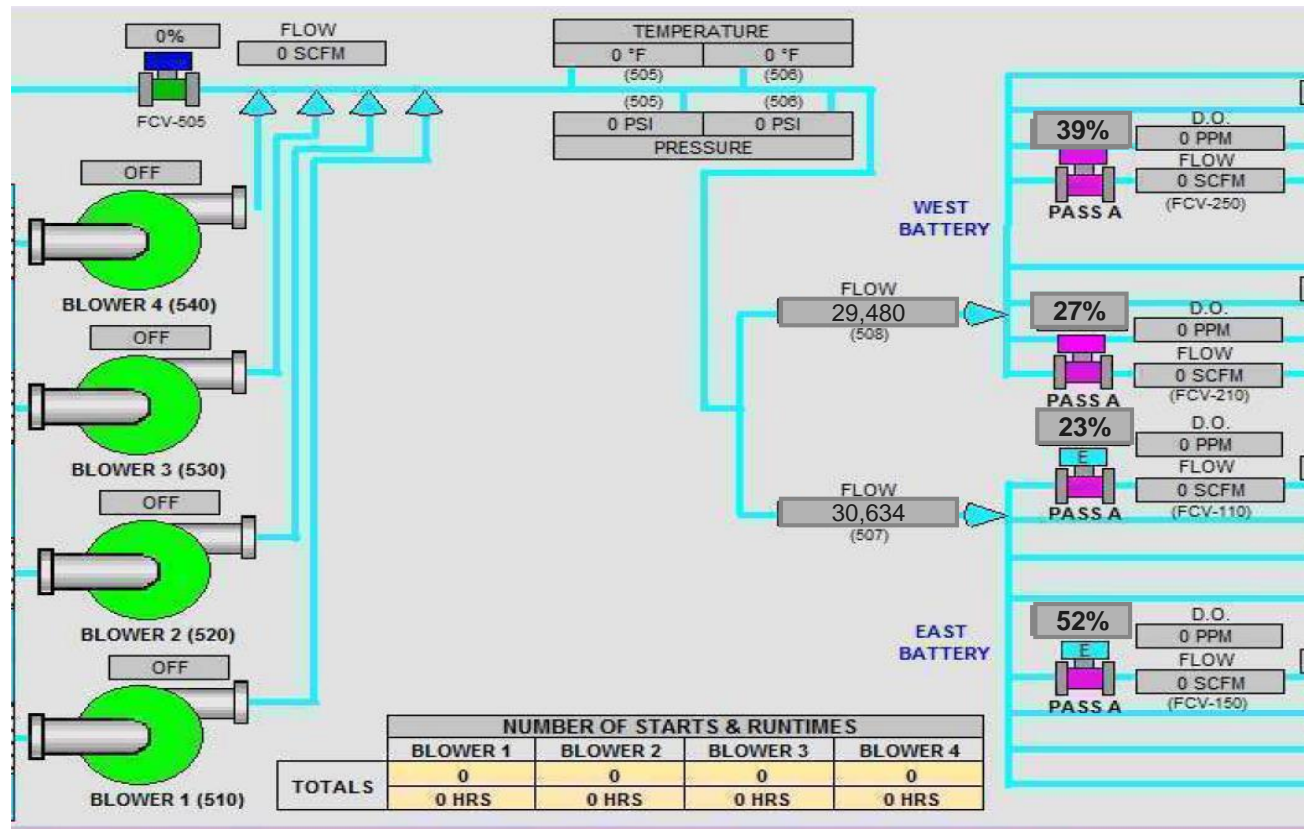
Is the plant doing OK?

# Example – Tier 2 – Unit Process

## Process Air Unit Process

Header Distribution

MOV Control/  
Balance



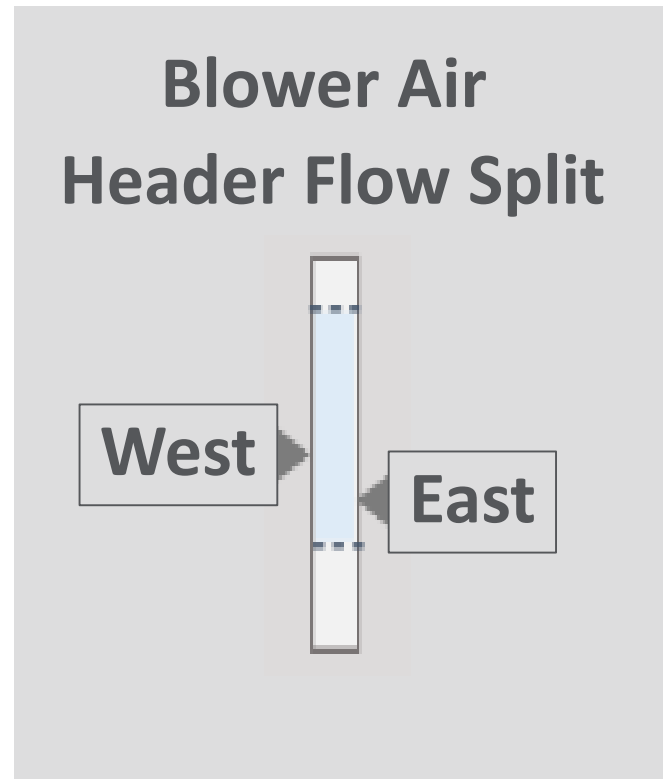
**Is flow balanced?**

# Example – Tier 2 – Unit Process

**Process Air  
Unit Process**

Header Distribution

MOV Control/ Balance



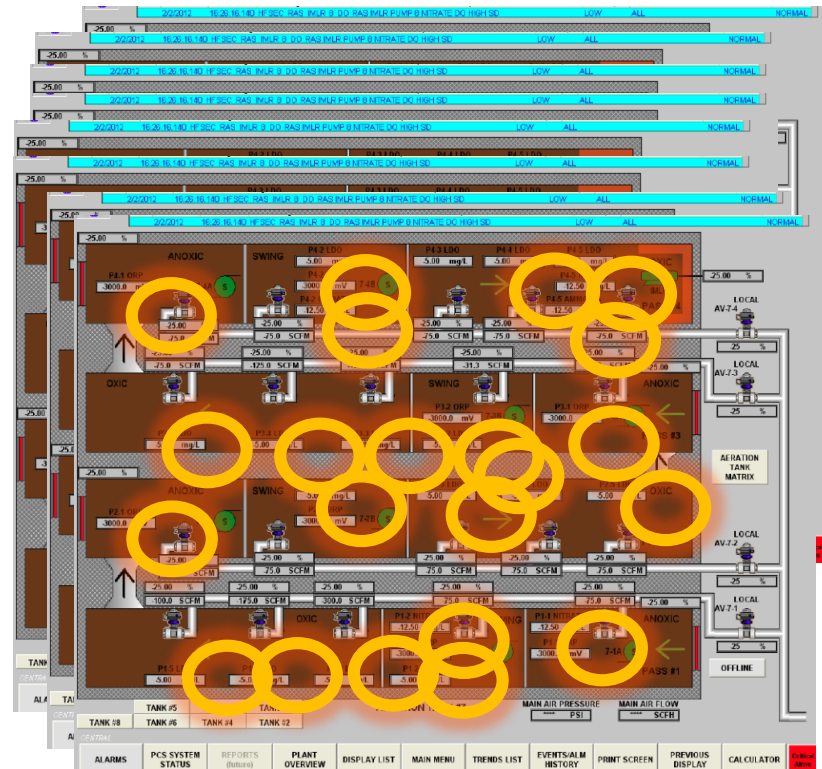
**Is flow balanced?**

# Example – Tier 2 – Unit Process

## BNR Unit Process

Nitrogen Removal  
Process

Multiple Analytical Values  
to review/ check



Is BNR within range?

# HPHMI Approach

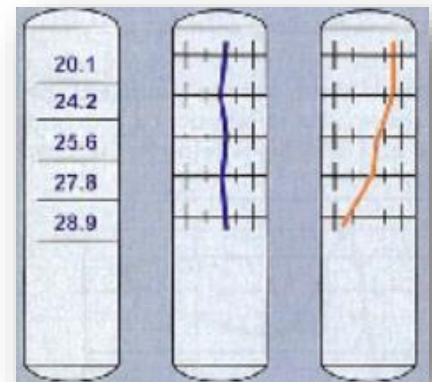
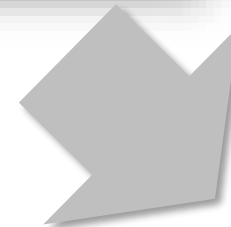
## Challenges:

- “Loss of view”
- “Too much data”



## Opportunities:

- PRO Object Development
- See “at-a-glance”





# PRO in Practice

Parameter	iFix HMI Range	“Good” Process Range		(FOR HMI CONFIG ONLY) Normalized PRO Object Limits (Horizontal Pos.)	
		Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
NITRATE (Pass 1-1/ Pass 4-2)	0-20 ppm	0.5 ppm	3 ppm	-0.75	4.25
NITRATE (Pass 4-5)	0-20 ppm	2 ppm	6 ppm	0	8
DO (all locations)	0-5 ppm	1 ppm	2.5 ppm	0.25	3.25
ORP (anoxic)	-2000- +2000mV	-80 mV	+20 mV	-100	100
Ammonia (Pass 4)	0 – 50 ppm	2 ppm	5 ppm	0.5	6.5

**Low alarm condition**



**Normal Process Range**

Outside normal process range, yellow indicates alarm condition

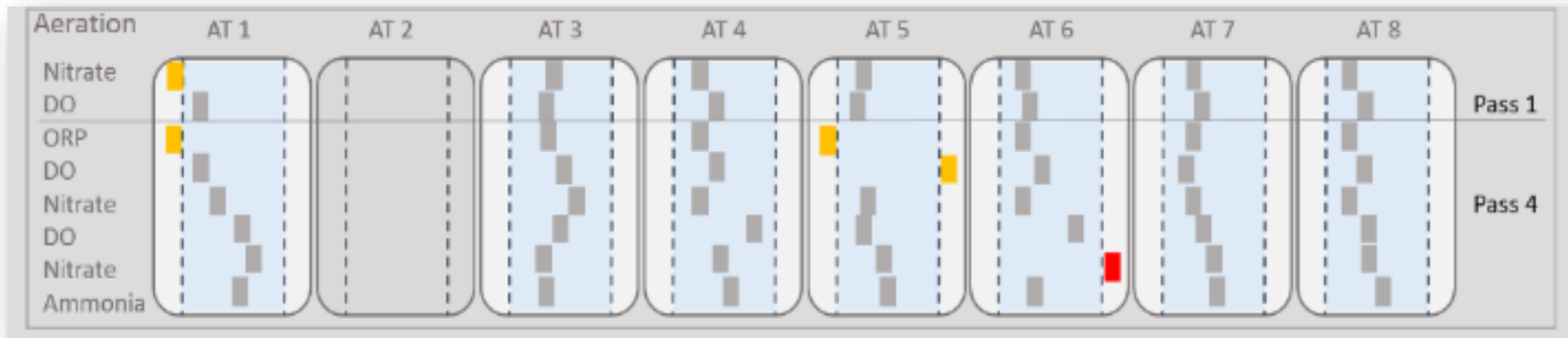
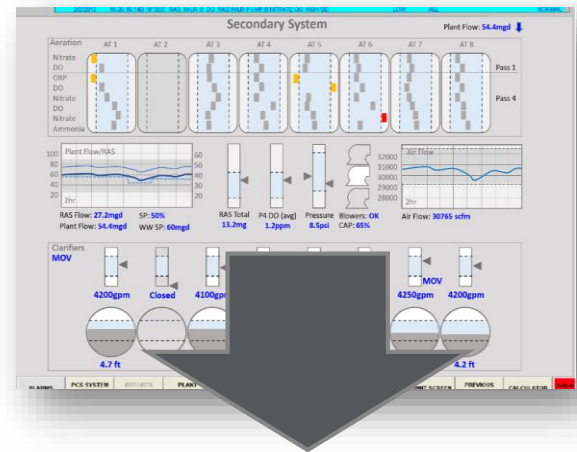
Use red for nitrate/ammonia as higher priority alarm than DO

# Example – Tier 2 – Unit Process

Entire Secondary

Profile Displays

- DO, Nitrate, Nox
- RAS, etc.



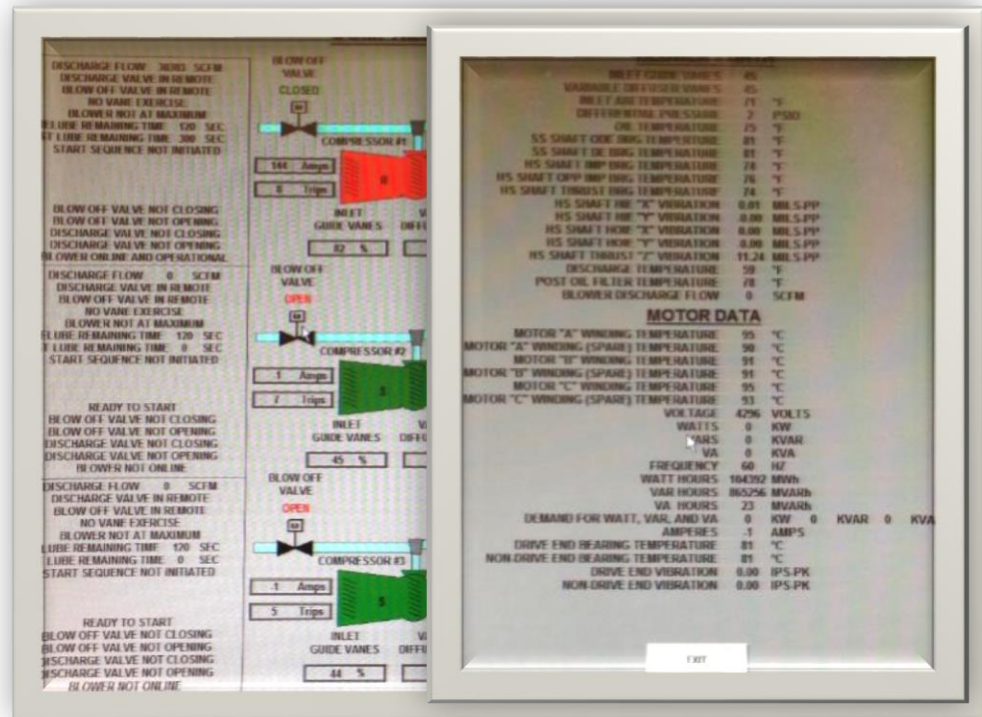
**Is BNR within range?**

# Example – Tier 3

## Equipment monitoring

### Blower Information:

- Scroll through many screens
- No summary, at-a-glance
- Alarming issues
- Too much information
- Too little information



**Is the 1,000 HP Aeration Blower running OK?**

# Example – Tier 3

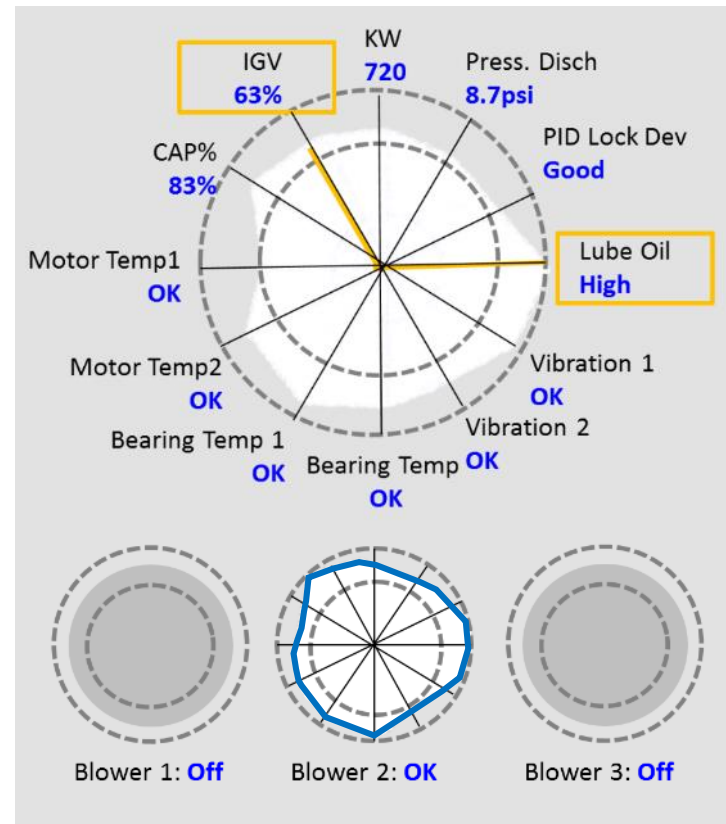
Develop Tier I Screen

Multivariable

At-a-glance, normalize parameters in PRO:

- Capacity
- Temperatures
- Vibrations
- Deviation from SP

From 6 screens with 80+ numbers to....1 screen

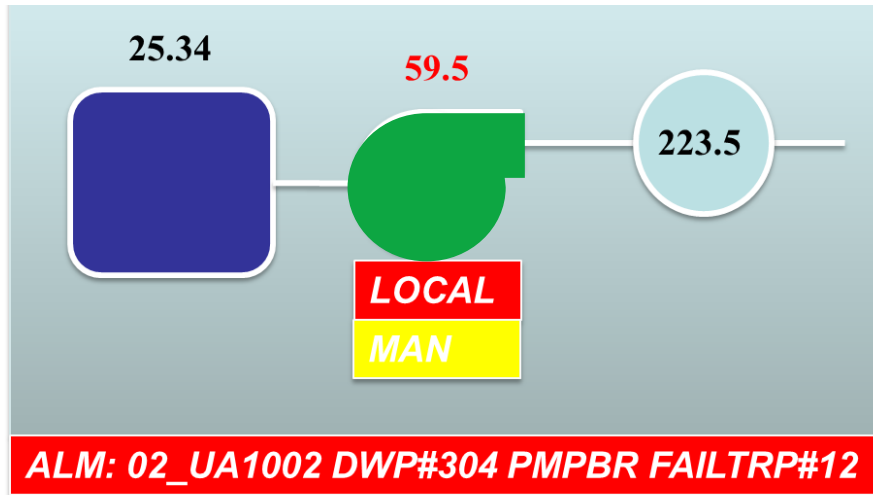


**Is the 1,000 HP Aeration Blower running OK?**

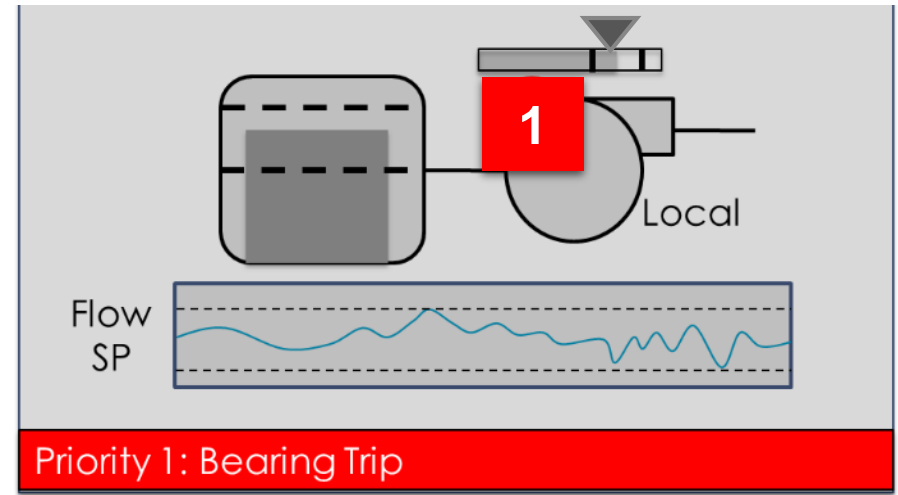
## 5. ALARM MANAGEMENT – AN INTEGRAL ASPECT OF HPHMI

# HMI Design for Alarms

HMI design directly impacts emphasis of abnormal condition. Which HMI is better?



Option 1



Option 2

**Alarm defined by number, color, shape, sound.**

# Definition of an alarm

“An audible and/or visual means of indicating to the **operator** an equipment malfunction, process deviation, or abnormal condition requiring a **response.**”

- *ANSI/ISA 18.2-2009 Management of Alarm Systems for the Process Industries*



# HMI Alarm Problems

## Typical SCADA Issues:

- Nuisance alarming
- Alarm Floods
- Alarm Chatter
- Stale Alarms
- Suppressed Alarms
- Event “Alarms”



**Poor alarm management can contribute to loss of situational awareness**



# ISA 18.2 Alarm Management Framework

## Alarm Philosophy

- Priority
- Distribution

## Rationalize

- “Bad Actor” Resolution
- Measure and Benchmark

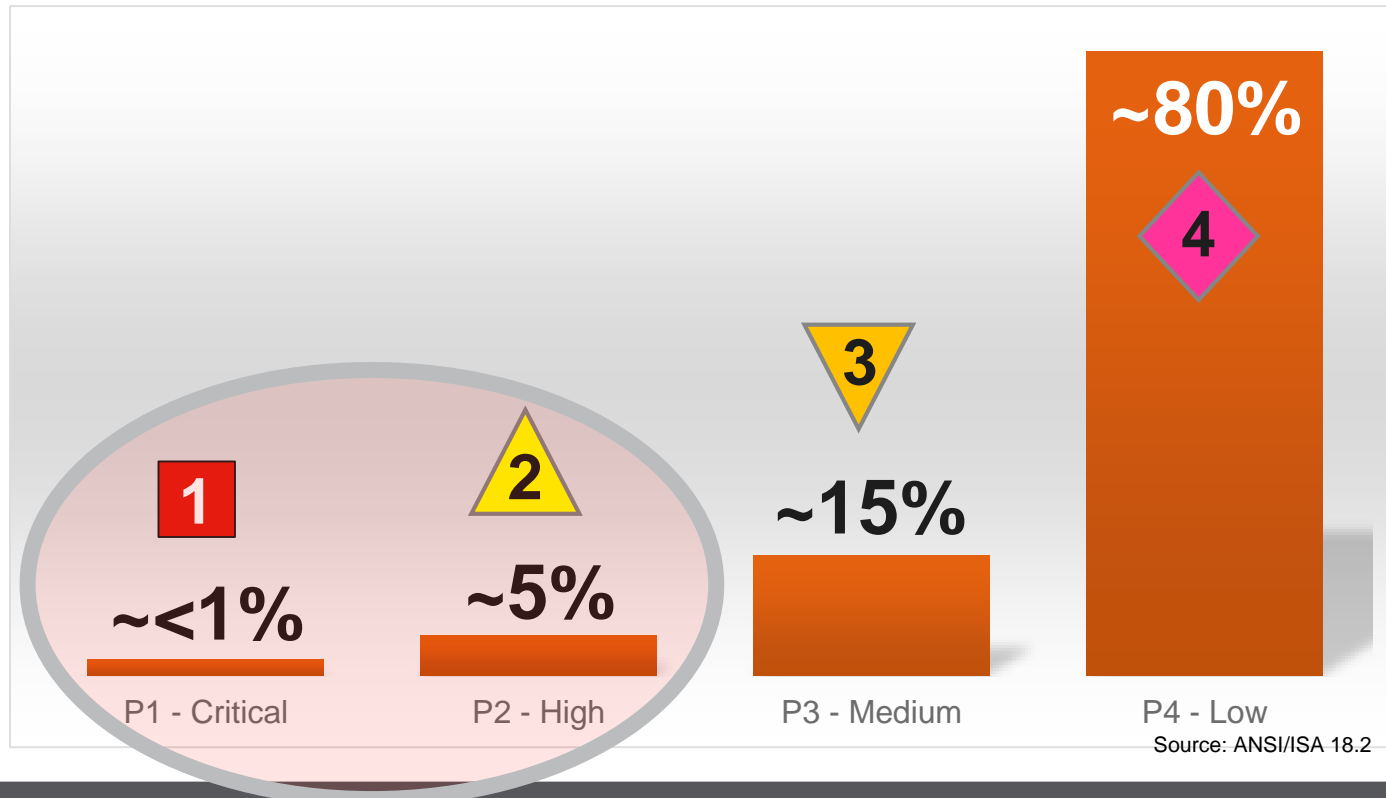
## Audit

Alarm management life cycle stage		Activities
Stage	Title	
A	Philosophy	Define processes for alarm management and ASRS*
B	Identification	Determine potential alarm conditions
C	Rationalization	Rationalization, classification, prioritization, and documentation
D	Detailed design	Basic alarm design, HMI design, and advanced alarming design
E	Implementation	Install alarms, initial testing and initial training
F	Operation	Operator responds to alarms and refresher training
G	Maintenance	Maintenance repair and replacement and periodic testing
H	Monitoring and assessment	Monitoring alarm distribution and report performance
I	Management of change	Process to authorize additions, modifications, and deletions of alarms
J	Audit	Periodic audit of alarm management processes

**Not just during startup and commissioning of a SCADA system....but continuously update.**

# HMI alarm priorities

ISA 18.2-2009 suggests 3 (or 4) priorities. Distribution shown below:



**Critical alarms should comprise ~5% of total alarms.**

# HMI Alarm Metrics and Benchmarking

Alarms **“acceptable”** ~1/10 min (150/day)

Alarms **“maximum manageable”** ~2/10 min (300/day)

Alarm **Floods**: No more than 10 alarms / 10 min

Priority **Distribution**: ~5% or less, Highest Priority

**Stale** and **Chattering** Alarms: Zero

Alarm performance metrics Based on at least 30 days of data		
Metric	Target value	
Annunciated alarms per operating position	Target value: very likely to be acceptable	Target value: maximum manageable
Annunciated alarms per day per operating position	~150 alarms per day	~300 alarms per day
Annunciated alarms per hour per operating position	~6 (average)	~12 (average)
Annunciated alarms per 10 minutes per operating position	~1 (average)	~2 (average)
Metric	Target value	
Percentage of hours containing more than 30 alarms	~<1%	
Percentage of 10-minute periods containing more than 10 alarms	~<1%	
Maximum number of alarms in a 10-minute period	≤10	
Percentage of time the alarm system is in a flood condition	~<1%	
Percentage contribution of the top 10 most frequent alarms to the overall alarm load	~<1 to 5% maximum, with action plans to address deficiencies	
Quantity of chattering and fleeting alarms	Zero, action plans to correct any that occur	
Stale alarms	Less than 5 present on any day, with action plans to address	
Annunciated priority distribution	3 priorities: ~80% low, ~15% medium, ~5% high or 4 priorities: ~80% low, ~15% medium, ~5% high, ~<1% “highest” Other special purpose priorities excluded from the calculations	
Unauthorized alarm suppression	Zero alarms suppressed outside of controlled or approved methodologies	
Unauthorized alarm attribute changes	Zero-alarm attribute changes outside of approved methodologies or management of change	

Source: ANSI/ISA 18.2

# Conclusions: Benefits of HPHMI

## Before

- Engineer and software features drives design
- Ineffective overview of processes
- Emphasis on numerical displays
- Little use of embedded trending
- Poor use of color
- Too many alarms to handle

## After

- Design driven by operator mental model
- Effective “at-a-glance” process overviews
- Emphasis on analog displays and patterns
- Effective use of roadmap trending
- Appropriate use of color
- Alarms properly rationalized

**Increasing situational awareness & effectiveness of HMI**

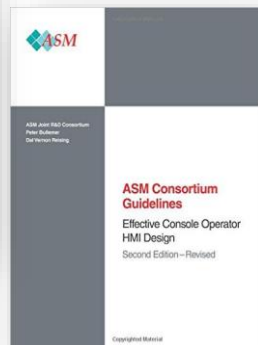
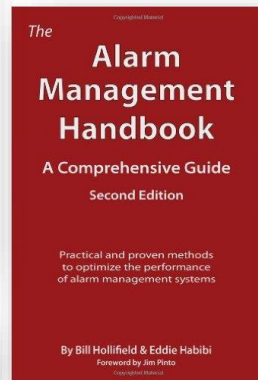
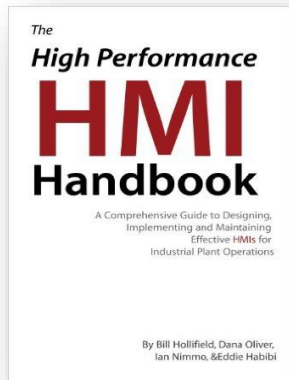


# Revisit Learning Objectives



- Recognize key components of a plant or facility **Human Machine Interface (HMI)**
- Define **situational awareness** as it relates to SCADA systems and identify common HMI pitfalls working against it
- Describe how High Performance HMI (HPHMI) **concepts** serve to enhance situational awareness
- Identify how **methodologies** such as ANSI/ISA 18.2 alarm management approach support HPHMI and are critical to SCADA system success
- Outline how to **benchmark and measure** the performance of HPHMIs and related alarm management systems

# References



- ANSI/ISA-101.01-2015, Human Machine Interfaces for Process Automation Systems
- ANSI/ISA-18.2-2009 Management of Alarm Systems for the Process Industry
- The High Performance HMI Handbook by *Bill Hollifield, Dana Oliver, Ian Nimmo, Eddie Habibi, PAS 2008*
- The Alarm Management Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide by Bill Hollifield and Eddie Habibi, 2006
- Effective Console Operator HMI Design: Second Edition - Revised (ASM Consortium Guidelines) 2nd Edition, by *ASM Consortium.*
- Automation of Water Resource Recovery Facilities - MOP 21 (WEF Manual of Practice) *Water Environment Federation*

# Q&A



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