

# SIGNAL

ISA—The Instrumentation, Systems, and Automation Society 

February 2004

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### ISA AUTOMATION WEST April 27-28, 2004

Planning for this popular conference and exhibition at the Long Beach Convention Center is continuing. For information on attending, exhibiting or assisting with the conference, please contact ISA at (919) 549-8411 or visit

[www.isa.org/autowest](http://www.isa.org/autowest)

*"He who lights his candle from mine  
receives light without darkening me."*

— Thomas Jefferson

## Spotlight: maintenance and operations

Keeping a plant up and running is a full-time job. ISA's Maintenance and Operations community provides insight into the best practices for maintaining and running manufacturing lines and processes with minimal downtime and losses to production. Also, since a plant doesn't work without infrastructure, learn the best ways to keep the physical plant and infrastructure of your facility at peak efficiency.

**Troubleshooting: A Technician's Guide.** A detailed look at the skills and knowledge required for troubleshooting. More at [www.isa.org...](http://www.isa.org...)

**ISA Automation and Control Technical Paper Collection.** Access the latest maintenance practices and applications from the world's leading practitioners through ISA's extensive technical paper collection. More at [www.isa.org...](http://www.isa.org...)

## San Diego opportunities

There are no section activities scheduled this month. Here are some employment opportunities in the area. Contact any of the Section officers if you are interested in helping organize and support your ISA Section.

**Control System Project Engineer.** EMA Inc., San Diego. Consulting engineering firm, computer-based control and information systems. BS in EE or related, 5-9 years PLC/HMI. Contact Nancy Maas at [hinfo@ema-inc.com](mailto:hinfo@ema-inc.com), EMA, Inc., 1970 Oakcrest Ave., St. Paul, MN 55113, Fax 651-639-5736.

**Electrical Engineer.** Thermo Electron Corporation, Materials and Minerals business unit, San Diego. Design and develop new instrumentation circuits and systems for industrial applications. EE degree with 2-5 years experience. Contact Jack Murrieta, [jack.murrieta@thermo.com](mailto:jack.murrieta@thermo.com), Thermo Electron Corporation, 5788 Pacific Center Blvd, San Diego CA 92121.

**Product Development Engineer.** Teledyne Advance Pollution Instrumentation, San Diego. BS/MS in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering or related field. [jobs@advpol.com](mailto:jobs@advpol.com), fax (858) 657-9818 or Teledyne API, Attn: Human Resources, 6565 Nancy Ridge Drive, San Diego, CA 92121.

**Assistant Chemist.** Air Products & Chemicals, Inc., Carlsbad. Performs analyses of chemical samples for ultra-trace impurities using analytical instrumentation such as GC, GC-MS, ICP-MS, ICP-OES, GFAA. Bachelors degree in Chemistry, 1-2 years experience. [www.airproducts.com/careers](http://www.airproducts.com/careers).

**Technical Sales Trainee.** San Diego Fluid System Technologies / Swagelok. Previous sales experience preferred with a burning desire to succeed as a top performing technical sales professional. Contact [resume@sdfst.com](mailto:resume@sdfst.com) or [www.swagelok.com](http://www.swagelok.com).

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# To section members...

By Bob Meijer, Section President



Once again, I'm behind in my magazine reading and so was struck by a thought-provoking article in the January 2004 *Intech*. In an insert titled, *The Myth of Manufacturing*, it concludes "Manufacturing is following the

same path as agriculture. As productivity rises, employment falls.... In 1910, almost 1/3 of adult Americans worked on farms. Now fewer than 3% do. But American agriculture is the most productive in the world." The article is certainly right on that — after all, we actually pay our farmers *NOT* to grow food and the U.S. still exports more food than it imports.

However, In looking at manufacturing exports v. imports, the contrast with farming couldn't be

sharper. We still don't pay any of our manufacturing facilities not to produce — and we now import far more dollars of manufactured good than we export. Perhaps decline in employment isn't always the best indicator of gains in productivity — sometimes it can be just the opposite.

My own favorite metric for productivity gain is the declining percentage of disposable income required for the goods produced. Using that measurement I have no trouble at all ranking productivity gains in computers, communication, cars, energy production education and healthcare.

On reflection, don't the innovations that enable productivity gains generally result in increased employment? That's certainly been the historical case with everything from fractional horsepower motors to semiconductors. I wonder if our current economic challenge is more one of not enough innovation than of too much productivity? What do you think?

B'

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The monthly **ISA Section Newsletters** and annual **Regional Membership Directory and Buyers' Guide** are mailed to all ISA section members in Southern California and Southern Nevada and to ISA student affiliates at Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton and Long Beach State. Newsletters include the South San Joaquin Valley Alarm, Los Angeles Annunciator, Orange County Chart, San Diego Signal and Las Vegas Experience. **Changes of address** can only be processed by ISA by at (919) 549-8411 or www.isa.org. For **editorial submissions and advertising**, please contact the newsletter editor listed above. Style guide, advertising rates, circulation information is posted at www.TechPubs.net. Mail **billing** correspondence to TechPubs Communications Bx1605 Costa Mesa CA 92628.

## Signal Your Market

*The ISA newsletter and directory carry your message directly to the instrumentation and automation community in California and Nevada.*

For advertising information, please call the newsletter editor.