

About the Author

William M. Hawkins has more than forty years in the field of process control as an engineer, twenty with Hercules as a chemical industry user and twenty with Rosemount as a control system vendor. He has been an engineering consultant for the last five years. He showed engineering talent early, and received a BSME from MIT in 1960.

Bill started at his career at the Hercules Powder Company blasting cap plant, where he worked on assembly machines and invented special measurement equipment. He transferred to the Covington Fiber and Film plant, where he worked on electronic and instrumentation problems in fiber and blown film. He transferred to central engineering and established an instrument laboratory, where he designed and built Hercules' first computer control system. He designed a batch control system for the TPA facility using a Foxboro 2/30 minicomputer and wired interlock logic mounted in the control panel. He also did a batch control project for polypropylene catalyst with a PLC.

Things changed, and Bill took a job with Rosemount in 1980 as Systems Engineering Manager, but soon became the control architect for Rosemount's next control system, RS3. He started up the first RS3 at a corn milling plant, with a transfer network of 165 valves and 22 pumps. No PLC was required because RS3 could do that logic. He developed ABC Batch with the help of the NAMUR recommendations in 1985. He started up the first ABC installation at a urethane polyols plant in Texas.

Bill joined the SP50 fieldbus communication standard and its User Layer in 1988, where he contributed to the design of control function blocks and learned a lot about fieldbus communication. He joined SP88 in 1992, where he helped to develop the concept of separation of recipe and equipment. He served as secretary for several years with Lynn Craig as chairman and Tom Fisher as editor, through the final ballot on ISA-88.01. He also served on the matching IEC standards committees, where he learned about the European viewpoint. He left SP50 in 1992 when a commercial consortium split away to get the job done. He wrote half of the function block specifications.

The World Batch Forum was started in 1994, and Bill was elected Treasurer, a post he held for eight years. He is still active in the Forum, currently involved with the conference technical program.

Bill formed HLQ, Ltd. when Emerson closed the Minnesota RS3 plant in July, 1999. He began by working for the Fieldbus Foundation on development and testing of the High Speed Ethernet fieldbus. Most of his time is now spent writing technical material.