

February 2, 2016,

SUBJECT: RTCnet and LINKnet HT Product Support

In 2013, Woodward released two new distributed I/O product families – LINKnet HT and RTCnet. LINKnet HT offers ruggedized 100C CAN-networked I/O, while RTCnet adds the capability of real-time performance and the security of redundant network connections. Woodward will continue to release new modules and new product features in this family over the coming years to meeting increasing market needs. RTCnet and LINKnet HT are key parts of our Controls product portfolio and are planned to remain available for use on new systems until at least 2025.

Critical technologies used in electronic control products change over time, and key electronic components become obsolete as they are replaced by newer technologies. For these reasons, there comes a point where continued production of a module is no longer feasible. Woodward recognizes the critical applications where these products are utilized and the difficulty of switching to new technologies. When possible, Woodward will develop backwards-compatible replacements which can be installed in place of the original module with no impact on the system. Occasionally this is not practical and it becomes necessary to replace a module with a functionally equivalent version. In the latter case it may be necessary to upgrade other system components to work with the new versions. Woodward has implemented post-life support plans to support our customers for the life of their equipment. When the time comes to rationalize the RTCnet and LINKnet HT product lines, Woodward will follow its standard rationalization plan as we have for our other electrical product lines. The typical notification prior to product rationalization is one year. At product rationalization, the below support plan will be followed:

Years 0-5 = Availability of Spares and Repairs

Years 6-10 = Repairs (based on available parts)

Years 11-20 = Replacement/Exchange with Service Stock if available (no repairs)

Parts obsolescence from electronic manufacturers can present a challenge to post-life support plans. When Woodward learns of component obsolescence, effort is made to ensure we meet our product support plan. When possible, Woodward makes last time component buys or sometimes redesigns the affected product to ensure that we meet our customer commitments.

Regards,

Greg Marino



Product Line Manager, Controls  
Woodward Industrial Turbomachinery  
greg.marino@woodward.com