

Automation Technology Trends in the Wastewater Sector

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All surveys of the water industry industry indicate that technology remains a hot topic when looking at the sustainability of our business. Whether associated with aging infrastructure, financial challenges, regulatory changes, or other major issues, technology is expected to help utilities “do more with less” and do it faster, more intelligently, while containing costs. These trends continue combining to impact the way automation is conceived, deployed, and used in the wastewater sector. More and more, automation is increasing the abilities for wastewater personnel to make better decisions, increase efficiency, improve service, collaborate, and lower costs. Today, “automation” is present in every aspect of the wastewater business, but what does the future hold for its use? In a recent development, WEF and WERF have combined to create the “LIFT” program – Leaders Innovation Forum for Technology, which looks to identify, screen, and evaluate new technologies (including sensors) in a collaborative partnership. From expanding a utility’s capabilities, to real-time capital management, enhancing security, managing knowledge, and so much more, automation is playing an increasingly important role in the sustainability of the business itself. This talk highlights the automation trends we should all be aware of, so that we can be positioned to take advantage of them, as informed players in the ever changing wastewater business.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:



Tom DeLaura, PE is an active member of WEF and AWWA at the national and local levels, currently serving as Chair of the WEF Automation & Information Technology Committee, and as a member of the AWWA I&C Committee.

He has extensive experience with water utilities, and has worked in all facets of automation associated with water/wastewater systems, from field to plant to boardroom. He has written and presented on numerous topics of interest to the water and wastewater industry, been involved in industry research, and has received awards from the industry for his dedication and service.

Starting with a decade as a user and manager of information and process control computer systems with a major water/wastewater utility, Tom’s 39 years of experience with automation have been focused on how technology must align with business goals for success. This background includes roles in management, engineering, construction, operation, and maintenance of utility businesses as integrated enterprises.