## **REFRIGERATION REVOLUTION** THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF HOLISTIC DIGITIZATION

OXFORD ENERGY SOLUTIONS INC



H. WILKINSON 2024

In response to the urgent global need to meet climate targets, there is a clear emphasis on reducing energy demand, with industries actively pursuing reductions. However, the refrigeration sector has not fullv recognized for the potential substantial energy benefits. It is necessary to overhaul both conventional architectures and the prevailing mindset among original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), which currently confines them to design systems within the limitations of their components. Fortunately, the emergence of digital integration presents opportunities for achieving optimal efficiency and unlocking the potential. system's full This transformation is crucial, as energy consumption plays a pivotal role in determining the environmental and economic impact of refrigeration systems.

Conventional refrigeration systems, characterized by manual, pressuredriven, or analog controls, manifest inefficiencies contributing to excessive energy use, elevated greenhouse gas emissions, and heightened operational costs. Shifting system design away from the operational constraints of outdated components is crucial.

However, the industry continues to center its approach on designing within the limitations of antiquated devices and methods like condenser flooding, heated receivers, and water requirements. Conventional systems, tailored to accommodate these limitations, result in heightened energy consumption, increased operating pressure, and elevated operational stress. This approach diminishes the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the cooling process, shortens the life system's expectancy, and necessitates more frequent servicing. The transition towards digital controls and smart infrastructure signifies a substantial leap mitigating in environmental while impact simultaneously enhancing benefits for system owners.

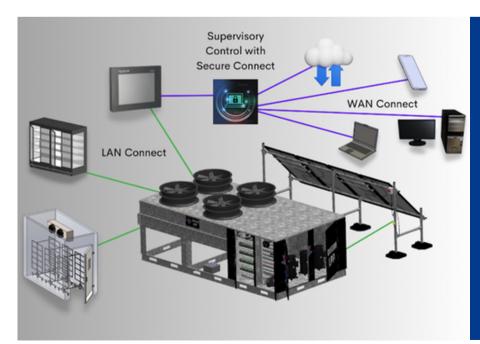


SENSORI™ CONTROL PANEL

The achievable efficiency is determined by how digital technology is implemented. To fully harness the complete potential of electronic components and the energy benefits of digitization, it is essential to go beyond simply integrating sensors and diaital controls into traditional designs, where isolated components lack communication and operate independently. Adopting a comprehensive approach is crucial, as focusing on individual components alone is insufficient. The transition should begin with establishing a completely interconnected system. Platforms like Oxford Energy Solutions' Low-Pressure Platform (LPP<sup>™</sup>), integrated with Sensori™ BAS, facilitate holistic a connection throughout the system.

The effectiveness of the LPP<sup>™</sup> stems from its architectural design and the unique feature of being a lowpressure, electronically based system, free from conventional constraints. Each device is linked through a dedicated Local Area Network (LAN), fostering seamless communication and data sharing across the platform. The system's connectivity and communication capabilities are integral to its success. Diaital integration allows end-users to observe, comprehend, and fine-tune parameters to enhance performance efficiency, ultimately leading to cost savings.

The unified system design aggregates thousands of real-time data points, creating optimal operational an framework. Advanced algorithms continuously analyze data, adjusting settings based on variables like temperature, humidity, and system load. The processed data is shared across the platform, transmitting meaningful information that improves the performance of every device.



The comprehensive digitization of the entire system, combined with the interconnected design of the Oxford Low-Pressure Platform (OLPP), serves as the catalyst for a highly efficient, data-driven, and optimally functioning system. The LPP™ achieves the required refrigeration capacity without relying additional energy-consuming on Flectronic processes. controls eliminate the need for conventional pressure differentials and leverage low compression ratios, which lowers discharge temperatures and minimizes secondary waste heat. Reducing compression ratios decreases the work required by the compressor. This leads to a more responsive and efficient process that minimizes energy waste and reduces the overall carbon footprint. When each part of the system is digitally optimized and can influence all other components, it creates a ripple effect that impacts the entire system.

Enhancing equipment performance through digital integration reduces energy consumption and fosters a

sustainable refrigeration approach. It offers more than just environmental benefits; it benefits system owners financially. Remote capabilities enable achieving greater equipment longevity through enhanced system protection, immediate anomaly notifications, and the ability to intervene promptly, ensuring durability and reliability. Access to all pertinent information eliminates quesswork, simplifying the manaaement and monitoring of refrigeration systems. The resulting energy savings from increased efficiency directly reduce operational costs, enhancing overall profitability. Furthermore, embracing smart technologies positions system meet owners to stringent environmental regulations and opens potential opportunities for securing government support through energy grants or programs.



## SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION: CORNERSTONE CO-OP'S JOURNEY WITH ERA AND LPP™

In pursuing sustainable future, a governments worldwide activelv promote initiatives, such as grants and targeted campaigns, encouraging businesses to reduce their carbon footprint. One such initiative is the Emissions Reduction Alberta (ERA), a government-run incentive program that supports businesses in enhancing operational efficiency while simultaneously lowering emissions. The ERA's commitment to promoting costeffective, energy-efficient technologies aligned perfectly with

the goals of Cornerstone Co-op in Mannville, Alberta.

The cooperative was operating an with outdated system obsolete technology that had exceeded its intended lifespan. Confronted with high energy consumption and escalating repair costs, they hesitated to invest in similar equipment that would replicate the inefficiencies of their current system. The existing system ran continuously at maximum parameters with static setpoints, an

unnecessary practice leading to energy wastage.

Lacking an energy management system to monitor their operations, they sought a scalable platform that would allow the business to attain dependable equipment performance, enhance efficiency, achieve cost savings, and align with environmental goals.

Upon discovering the energy and longevity benefits of the fully

## **RESULTS:**

The Co-op invested in a complete outdoor skid without any conventional characteristics. The innovative design of the LPP<sup>™</sup> yields impressive results, utilizing a low-pressure refrigerant in an environment with temperatures ranging from +40 to -50 degrees Celsius. The new, fully integrated platform, driven digital technologies, by advanced facilitates comprehensive system management through Sensori<sup>™</sup> BAS. This empowers the Co-op to monitor their system's performance effortlessly, providing valuable insights into how their refrigeration affects their business and environmental objectives.

The system incorporates a built-in energy meter, functioning like a thirdparty device. It communicates through Modbus, meticulously tracking power usage for compression, condenser, walk-in cooler, freezer evaporator fans, and defrost heaters. Thanks to the net optimizing benefits of the BAS, the average energy reduction is 50-60%

Oxford Low-Pressure integrated Platform with Solar (OLPP-S), the Coop opted to replace compressors and condenser coils serving retail cases, the walk-in cooler, and the freezer. With support from the ERA, they embarked on a retrofit project to significantly reduce energy costs and enhance overall operational efficiency. This initiative resulted in a \$92,000 incentive payout for the Coop from the Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction Fund.



CORNERSTONE CO-OP OUTDOOR SKID

compared to the previous system. The Co-op's efficiency gains, robust system management capabilities, and the enhanced adaptability and performance of their refrigeration system underscore the transformative power of a holistic digital transition.

