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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Northcross Group Presents at the European Industrial Engineering Regional Meeting**

**Portland, Maine, September 1, 2014** — The Northcross Group (NCG) Chief Technology Officer Dave Winger presented in the regional meeting for the European Industrial Engineering Sector. This year the regional meeting was held in Northampton, England, from August 25<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

The regional meeting is a smaller subset of companies that design and manufacture food processing equipment / systems and a mix of food processors. With the regional meeting theme focused on the Global Approach for Industrial Engineering, the conference concentrated on the knowledge management and efficient usage of resources for efficient productivity with precision and accuracy. The regional meeting offered a unique opportunity for engineers, consultants, and professionals from around the world to gather and discuss new innovative technologies for food processing and manufacturing.

Mr. Winger presented two in-depth presentations and led two panel discussions with thirty five companies covering Cyber Security for Industrial Controls and Automation systems. The presentations and panel discussions discussed how the proliferation of cyber threats has prompted manufactures in industrial environments to search for security solutions that can protect their assets and prevent potentially significant monetary loss and brand erosion. While some industries have made progress in minimizing the risk of cyber-attacks, the barriers to improving cybersecurity remain high. More open and collaborative networks have made systems more vulnerable to attack, while end user awareness and appreciation of the level of risk is inadequate across most industries outside critical infrastructure environments. The uncertainty in the regulatory landscape also remains a significant restraint. With the increased use of commercial off-the-shelf IT solutions in industrial environments, control system availability is vulnerable to malware targeted at commercial manufacturing systems. Inadequate expertise in industrial IT networks is a sector-wide challenge in all regions of the world.

2014 was a first for the regional meeting to focus on emerging regional and vertical opportunities, economic impacts, key technology trends and other leading considerations, such as energy efficiency, legislation and commodities. Program highlights included an insight into connectivity, industrial cyber security, energy efficiency, commodity pricing, emerging markets, industrial automation growth opportunities and the underpinning aspects of machinery production and capital expenditure. In addition, attendees had the opportunity to learn about the impact of macro-economic instability in the food industry, to participate in comprehensive discussions on growth opportunities in vertical sectors and European Union regions, gain expertise and insight from key industry figures shared through

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presentations and panel discussions, to participate in thought provoking and detailed programs designed to deliver usable insight and to connect with leading international companies from the industrial automation space.

The regional meeting included in-depth presentations and panel discussions on logistics and the flow of goods from the point of production to point of consumption, including international shipping challenges, supply chain management and knowledge management to handle the proper flow of goods and effective usage of organizational knowledge. The regional meeting included several in-depth meeting and panel discussions on cyber security for industrial controls and automation systems, which now poses a grave danger to the manufacturing sector.

Against this background, industrial manufacturing companies should partner with security solutions providers who can help them adopt a multi-layered Defense-in-Depth approach through a well-rounded, step-by-step plan to mitigate risk. This includes improved security features on current and upcoming solutions, the use of the Automation Systems Manager (ASM) to monitor, manage and protect assets, and a comprehensive suite of services to support customers. With this expertise from a solutions partner, organizations can move from reactive and ad hoc responses, to a proactive, planned and holistic approach to security.

To learn more about the European Industrial Automation Conference 2014, please visit [www.ih.com/events/ih/automation-conference.aspx](http://www.ih.com/events/ih/automation-conference.aspx).

Northcross Group (NCG) is a management and technology consulting services firm. Incorporated in 2006, NCG is headquartered in Portland, Maine. NCG delivers highly complex initiatives bridging between technology and business to maximize ROI, ensure security, and compliance in environments facing big opportunities or challenges. For more information on NCG, visit [www.northcrossgroup.com](http://www.northcrossgroup.com).

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