

Qualification versus Commercial Grade Dedication - a Design Perspective

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Abstract

Scientech recently designed a new analog protection system for Crystal River 3. One of the design goals was to use commercial-off-the-shelf equipment where possible, to help address the future obsolescence problems. The result was a system that used many COTS devices, such as power supplies, terminal blocks, relays, and fuses that were purchased and dedicated for safety related use, as well as custom electronics modules that were designed and qualified for safety related use. This presentation will discuss the technical challenges, the differences in the actual testing, and the financial impact of the two different approaches.