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COURSE BROCHURE

Plant Data Communication and Fieldbus Networks Training Course

28 December 2026 – 1 January 2027
Vienna

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Ref: 3098_117648 **Date:** 28 December 2026 – 1 January 2027 **Location:** Vienna **Fees:** 6600 GBP

Plant Data Communication and Fieldbus Networks is a 1-week training course for instrument, control and automation engineers and technicians who keep field devices talking to controllers, and who leave with a plant network troubleshooting checklist. As plants replace point-to-point wiring with digital networks, a single loose terminator or address clash can stop a production unit. Jupiter Prime Training offers this course to build methodical fault finding on plant control networks.

Why Plant Data Communication and Fieldbus Networks Matters Now

Two forces are reshaping plant communication. Field devices now carry diagnostics, configuration and process values over one digital link, so the network has become part of the measurement itself. At the same time, plants are linking control networks to business systems, which brings more traffic, more segments and more ways for faults to hide. Maintenance teams that read waveforms, error counters and device status quickly restore production in minutes; teams that rely on swapping parts lose hours. The course rests on the layered communication model used across industrial networking.

Who Gains Most from Plant Data Communication and Fieldbus Networks

- Instrument technicians who commission and replace transmitters, valves and analysers
- Control engineers who configure controller interfaces, addressing and data mapping
- Automation engineers who design segment layouts and network expansions
- Maintenance planners who schedule network inspections and spares
- Electrical staff who install and test signal cabling and earthing

Shift maintenance crews gain most when several members attend together and agree one shared fault-finding sequence.

Plant Data Communication and Fieldbus Networks Capabilities

Participants move from guessing at silent devices to reading what the network itself reports.

- Apply the layered communication model to locate a fault at the physical, link or application level — repair priorities
- Specify segment topology, length and terminator placement for a new installation — design approval
- Calculate segment power budgets and voltage at the farthest device — commissioning sign-off
- Configure device addresses, data rates and parameter sets without conflicts — operations handover
- Test cable shielding, earthing and signal quality with portable diagnostic instruments — maintenance planners
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Build a stepwise fault-finding routine that shift crews can follow — production supervisors

Key Plant Data Communication and Fieldbus Networks Terms

- Fieldbus — a digital network linking field instruments and actuators to controllers over a shared cable.
- Segment — one electrically continuous section of a network, bounded by terminators or repeaters.
- Terminator — a resistor network fitted at each segment end to stop signal reflections.
- Serial communication — sending data one bit after another over a single pair of conductors.
- Polling — a master device asking each slave device in turn for its data.
- Device description file — a file telling the host system what parameters and functions a field device offers.

Plant Data Communication and Fieldbus Networks Day by Day

Day 1: How Plant Networks Carry Signals

- Analogue Loops Versus Digital Field Networks — Choosing the Right Signal Path
- Layered Communication Model — Locating Where a Message Breaks Down
- Serial Interfaces and Line Drivers — Matching Distance and Noise Conditions
- Master, Slave and Peer Messaging — Setting Response Times for Control
- Network Documentation and Loop Drawings — Keeping Records Usable on Shift

Day 2: Fieldbus Topologies and Physical Design

- Trunk, Spur and Tree Layouts — Balancing Cable Cost Against Resilience
- Segment Length and Device Count Limits — Avoiding Overloaded Segments
- Power Budget Calculations — Confirming Voltage at the Farthest Instrument
- Terminator and Repeater Placement — Preventing Signal Reflections
- Hazardous Area Barriers and Couplers — Protecting Devices in Flammable Zones

Day 3: Device Configuration and Integration

- Device Addressing and Tag Assignment — Preventing Address Clashes on Start-Up
- Device Description Files — Loading Correct Parameters Into the Host
- Data Mapping to Controller Registers — Getting Values Into the Right Place
- Gateways Between Network Types — Bridging Old and New Equipment
- Configuration Backup and Change Records — Restoring a Device After Replacement

Day 4: Cabling, Earthing and Diagnostics

- Cable Types, Shielding and Glands — Reducing Electrical Noise Pickup
- Single-Point Earthing Practice — Eliminating Ground Loops in Signal Circuits
- Portable Network Analysers and Oscilloscopes — Reading Waveform Quality
- Error Counters and Retry Statistics — Spotting Failing Segments Early
- Device Health and Status Alerts — Planning Maintenance Before Failure

Day 5: Practising the Plant Network Troubleshooting Checklist

- Layer-by-Layer Fault Isolation Applied — Narrowing Down a Silent Device
- Power Budget and Topology Checks Applied — Diagnosing Intermittent Drop-Outs
- Waveform and Error Counter Review Applied — Confirming Cabling Faults
- Case Studies From Refining and Water Treatment — Comparing Root Causes
- Plant Network Troubleshooting Checklist — Finalising the Shift Crew Sequence

Applying Plant Data Communication and Fieldbus Networks After the Course

- Walk one live segment, recalculate its power budget and record terminator positions against the drawings.
- Trial the troubleshooting checklist on the next reported device communication fault and refine its steps.

Plant Data Communication and Fieldbus Networks Questions FAQ

What is plant data communication and fieldbus networking and why does it matter now?

It is the way field instruments, actuators and controllers exchange values and diagnostics over digital networks. It matters now because more plants depend on these networks, so a communication fault quickly becomes a production stoppage.

Which roles gain most from plant data communication and fieldbus networks training?

Instrument technicians, control and automation engineers, maintenance planners and electrical staff gain most, because each installs, configures or repairs part of the network path between device and controller.

How does plant data communication and fieldbus networks training differ from a control system configuration course?

It focuses on the network path rather than control logic. A configuration course builds controller strategies; this one deals with cabling, topology, addressing, power budgets and diagnostics that decide whether data arrives at all.

What do you bring back from plant data communication and fieldbus networks training?

You bring back a tested troubleshooting checklist and the calculations behind it, ready for shift crews to use on your own segments.

Plant Data Communication and Fieldbus Networks: The Way Forward

The plant network troubleshooting checklist first decides how a shift crew responds to a silent or erratic device. Technicians use it on call, while engineers use its records to plan segment changes and spares. After its first use, the earthing and topology steps deserve another look, since these often hide the causes of intermittent faults.