



Global competition and rapidly changing customer requirements demand increasing sophistication in manufacturing environments. Enterprises are required to constantly redesign their products and continuously reconfigure their manufacturing systems. The control systems industry has a part to play in the sustainability obligation.

We at Optima initiated a discussion related to industrial automation and how it could be used in achieving more sustainable production. We asked several plastics and packaging industry professionals one simple question using social media networks:

Do you think that it is more sustainable to keep maintaining your old machinery or do you see brand new machines being more environmentally friendly and more efficient?

This is what some industry professionals had to say:

H.G: In terms of carbon footprint it is worse to buy a new machine than to maintain an old one. The carbon footprint of making the new machine is usually so big that it will take years to justify their purchase in "green" terms.

Of course, this is not what machinery producers will tell you, but then again- they care more about their sales than the planet. The situation is the same in the vehicles industry. Changing to Electric Vehicles makes sense for a future where natural resources will become scarcer, but it has nothing to do with eco-friendliness, at least not in the short term.
