Fribourg, 18 October 2019

VM600 protection system – CPUM and cyber security

Dear Customer,

This letter is to clarify certain information regarding the VM600 machinery protection system supplied by Meggitt.

The CPUM card is the VM600 protection system interface with other systems and is used to configure the system. Since version 077 of the CPUM card firmware version, Meggitt introduced security features. A physical security lock has been added to further improve the intrusion prevention and disabling every possible interface that can impact system functionality to the read only mode, in particular the FTP, TELNET admin session. In addition the RPC and MODBUS commands are blocked to prevent action on the protection system.

The latest version 082 of the CPUM firmware released in October 2019 shall be used for maximum security. It features a system event log that will log security related information like successful logins, failed login when wrong password entered along other system events like system configuration modification. In addition, all unused ports of disabled interfaces are closed when security lock is enabled.

The CPUM is running on QNX 6.4 operating system which is an outdated version that Meggitt does not plan to upgrade for various compatibility reasons. No antivirus or malware prevention software are embedded on the CPUM card.

As a summary, Meggitt is continuously hardening the security of the CPUM and the following security improvement is available with the latest card firmware version 082:

- **Increased VM600 rack (CPUM card) security**

VM600 rack security implemented by the CPUM card is now even more secure to help combat growing cyber-security risks. This makes it easier for operators to comply with security/critical infrastructure regulations from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and international equivalents.

Yours faithfully,

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