

Be Ready for the Light-Bulb Moment

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Fueled by the growing number of compliant products and a variety of seminar tours, LXI is beginning to spark the imagination of test engineers and test managers around the world.

In my conversations with these folks, they often ask, "How easily can I do what I'm doing today?" As they listen to the answers, the light-bulb moment is almost tangible. The next flurry of questions revolves around not only new ways to do the usual tasks, but also unusual ways to solve the larger issues that surround testing.

Which issues? Smaller teams, tighter launch windows, and greater reliance on offshore manufacturing all come to mind. LXI offers a cost-effective way to create test systems in this dynamic environment. It also generates new opportunities that are difficult—if not impossible—to implement with other architectures.

Remote measurement is one especially promising application. Through the LAN connection, LXI makes it possible to place instruments far from the PC and from each other and near the devices they measure or the processes they monitor.

This isn't just a marketer's fever dream. A leading supplier of prefabricated concrete parts has assembled an LXI-based system to implement a method called cathodic protection. This technique prevents corrosion of the steel reinforcement used in concrete modules by applying an electric field to the steel and scanning embedded sensors that monitor the system.

Remote access to the LXI-compliant switch/measure unit and modular power system is accomplished through a universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS) wireless link and a secure virtual private network (VPN) channel. The system software runs on a Linux server that can automatically monitor multiple remote installations such as parking structures. Using LXI enhances the flexibility of the solution without compromising the quality or predictability of the measurement.

LXI enables many other intriguing applications, ranging from remote troubleshooting of a system halfway around the world to the emulation of outdated equipment via synthetic instruments. Unleash your imagination—and brace yourself for the light-bulb moment.

