



Spara Overview: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How does the Spara system generate savings?

- A:** Spara is an advanced energy management system (EMS) that can help you reduce electricity costs by pursuing the following strategies:
- **Meaningful peak demand control.** Spara can control power demand throughout your facility automatically, allowing you to minimize costly demand peaks without compromising quality or causing unanticipated disruptions.
 - **Respond to dynamic pricing.** Spara constantly monitors your electricity meters while keeping an eye on pricing data from your utility, allowing you to quickly shift usage to take advantage of lower rate opportunities or minimize charges during rate spikes.
 - **Demand response (DR) participation.** Spara makes it easy to meet DR commitments and participate in programs requiring the latest automation.
 - **System efficiency.** Production equipment is typically the heaviest power user in an industrial facility. Spara interfaces with loads to precisely reduce loads kW usage without disrupting production or quality, using process-based rules you set.

Q: How does Spara integrate with my existing systems—and is that going to be a headache?

- A:** Spara was built to integrate easily with existing systems. Spara utilizes off-the-shelf technology on an embedded Linux system and provides networking and communication ports for seamless connections to various other controllers, such as PLCs, microcontrollers, and VFDs.

Spara’s industrial wireless connectivity allows you to monitor and control loads without adding cumbersome wiring. You can access the Spara EMS from any computer with a web browser and network connection—there’s no need to install and manage software on each user’s computer. Spara’s web-based

interface uses the latest open standards, making Spara easy to integrate with your IT, data management, and security systems.

Connection strategies include:

- Analog interfaces for variable reference or potentiometer/rheostat-like control
- Digital control for on/off, increase/decrease modes, Binary Coded Decimal (BCD) input, etc.
- Communication interfaces for microcontroller or PLC-based systems
- Notification stations for manual interruption

Q: What types of plant equipment can Spara control?

- A:** Spara interfaces seamlessly with most industrial equipment, such as:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ Chillers | ■ Baghouses |
| ■ Compressors | ■ Dust collectors |
| ■ Furnaces | ■ Shot blast machines |
| ■ Heat treating ovens | ■ Molding equipment |
| ■ Fans | ■ Pumps |
| ■ Blowers | ■ HVAC/air handling |



Spara also is compatible with most existing control platforms and can enhance their energy management performance.

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Q: How is Spara different from my existing automation?

A: Spara was designed for industrial manufacturing facilities. And unlike other demand control systems or EMS products, Spara takes a holistic approach to energy management. Instead of simply controlling certain loads, as some systems do, Spara lets you intelligently manage energy demand throughout your facility. Spara also lets you stay ahead by incorporating features necessary for participation in the next generation of dynamic pricing and demand response programs.

Q: How is it possible to reduce energy expenses without negatively affecting production?

A: Spara works by making precise adjustments to facility demand and rooting out hard-to-find inefficiencies. The system utilizes a strict set of rules that dictate how and when equipment or processes can be adjusted for load shedding. The rules are designed to protect production and will never be broken. Spara can prioritize load shedding sequentially, by group, or by other factors, and it can synchronize load shedding to achieve both savings and productivity targets.

