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I declare, I confirm, I certify and I sign that I received substantial, important, line by line peer review with several and substantial comments, important remarks and hints from, at least, 3 Reviewers and the Assistant Editor for my paper:

Leveraging Digital Twins for Enhanced PLC Performance and Maintenance in Industrial Automation

with Authors:

KLAOUNTIO MITA, IOANNIS GIACHOS\*, EVANGELOS C. PAPAKITSOS, MICHAIL PAPOUTSIDAKIS, NIKOLAOS LASKARIS, CHRISTOS DROSOS

I would like to thank all the reviewers for their thoughtful comments and efforts towards improving our manuscript. We revised the manuscript with special attention to the comments that we received from **Three (3)** reviewers that were experts, specialists in the area of my paper.

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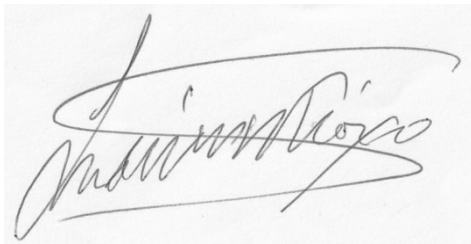
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The major revised parts of the manuscript have been highlighted in yellow, in order to facilitate their checking. The responses to the reviewers follow in the next pages. AI-writing detection tools have been used and any detection has been either minimized or eliminated.

Signature (insert an image file with scanned signature or print out the whole page, sign and scan)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juan Carlos', is displayed within a rectangular frame.

Date: 13-8-2025

## Responses to Reviewers (required)

For every revised version, the authors will reply using the following tables

They will upload them via the web or will send them by email.

Authors will have to make all the changes, modifications, additions, studies, corrections asked by the reviewers using the following forms. Authors have to be fully complied with the reviewers' instructions. Before the publication, the three (or more than three) reviewers will check, if the changes, modifications, additions, studies, corrections etc have been carried out. In this case, the paper will be published or will be rejected or a new round of peer review will start.

### Reviewer # 1

| Reviewer's #1 comment                                                                               | Authors response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Action Taken                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| The concept of the paper must be presented with more details                                        | The details are as permissible as possible to avoid violations of copyright, technicalities beyond comprehension for the average reader and accessibility of technical matters (not published).                                                                                                    | None.                                      |
| On the other hand we have limited critical analysis of why the results turned out as they did.      | The results are the observable applications through the survey of literature as they turn up from practice. Any critical analysis require access to the raw data, which are not available per field of application. According to these observations, several proposals are presented in chapter 7. | None.                                      |
| Give please more details for the Leveraging Digital Twins methodology and add some details in pge 3 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | More details have been added to chapter 2. |

| Reviewer's #1 comment                                                                          | Authors response                                                                                                        | Action Taken                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Another problem is that the comparison with related literature or known benchmarks is minimal. | No comparison is made in the article. Observable examples of application are given, followed by proposals in chapter 7. | None.                                                  |
| A good discussion explains why findings matter.                                                | The discussion is done in chapter 8.                                                                                    | None.                                                  |
| They must increase the material of the paragraph 3                                             |                                                                                                                         | Chapter 3 has been restructured.                       |
| Can the author apply this methodology in conjunction with AI technology in PLC Performance?    | This issue is under investigation with no conclusive results yet to be published.                                       | A paragraph has been added for potential applications. |

## Reviewer #2

| Reviewer's #2 comment                                                                                                      | Authors response                                                                                                                                                                   | Action Taken |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Give more discussion and examples and details and present an analysis of the Stability as well as Industrial Applications. | Sections 5, 6 and 7 are full of examples, in details as permissible as possible to avoid violations of copyright. The term “stability” is not understandable in what it refers to. | None.        |

| Reviewer's #2 comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Authors response | Action Taken                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>The abstract lacks clarity regarding the specific methodology used, and doesn't mention key findings or implications.</p> <p>The introduction would benefit from a clear problem statement and specific research objectives or questions.</p> <p>Include concise methodology and key results in the abstract.</p> |                  | <p>Statements have been added to the abstract, regarding research objectives, methodology and key results.</p> |

### Reviewer #3

| Reviewer's #3 comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Authors response | Action Taken                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>The text requires improvements in language and overall presentation. The author must ensure that the formatting is correct and that all necessary linguistic revisions are made. The authors can improve the English language is a simply process-pasting the text into Gmail. Gmail will automatically highlight the errors. Additionally, using Grammarly can provide further assistance. Many papers are unfortunately excluded from some indexes like Google, EBSCO and ProQuest and fail to appear in search results due to issues related to references and language quality. Therefore, it is crucial that the English is polished to a high standard and that references are formatted correctly.</p> |                  | <p>The entire text was checked through Gmail. Several corrections have been made throughout the text.</p> |