Orion
An Overview of the Orion Automation Platform
The Best Substation Automation Platform Out There Is in Here

The Orion Family of Substation Automation Platforms and I/O perform an expanding array of automation and security applications in electric utility substations, with minimal setup and maintenance. A single Orion can replace multiple legacy boxes in a substation, reducing hardware, design, wiring, and panel costs. Orion I/O also minimizes the cost of replacing legacy D20 I/O. Orion is the automation platform of choice for more U.S. utilities than any competing product.*

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Design Goals

The OrionLX+, OrionLX, OrionLXm, and Orion I/O borrow design features from rugged protective relays, modular PLCs, powerful PCs, diagnostic test sets, and secure routers. The result is a rugged platform that can reliably take on a range of automation tasks.
Rugged

Meets ANSI C37.90.1 2002 Fast Transient on I/O and power supplies and ANSI C37.90.2 1995 RFI, and corresponding IEC standards. Direct fiber optic is available on serial communication ports and Ethernet port. Designed to operate over -40°C to 70°C without heaters, fans, or moving parts.

Flexible & Modular

On the OrionLX hardware and software are modular. Communication cards can be switched or added, software options and protocols can be added quickly and easily in the field. Toolsets for logic, HMI development, and points mapping provide the flexibility to meet the needs of multiple applications.

Utility Specific

Includes functions for breaker controls, counters, accumulators, Local/Remote, and momentary-change-detect. Includes support for both legacy utility protocols (Modbus, CDC, Conitel, etc.) and new international standards (IEC 61850, IEC 60870, and DNP3).

Built-in Diagnostics

Includes a built-in protocol analyzer to view all messages, plus extensive diagnostic LEDs, internal health monitoring, and time diagnostics. Commissioning tools include points blocking and forcing functions. Orion I/O includes an LED-based user interface for status and diagnostics.

Standard IT Industry Tools

Includes SNMP Manager and Agent, a SQL-compliant relational database, web technology, and standard tools for file transfer, diagnostics, and time management.

Built-in NERC CIP Security

All Orions come standard with all security features built-in including protection from malware, remote authentication, secure protocols, strong passwords and syslog logging.
Hardware Features

Orion Automation Platforms are available in two sizes: 19” rack mount and smaller 8.5” x 6” x 2RU with universal mounting. A wide range of modular communications, display, and power supplies can be tailored for any application.
**Orion Overview**

**OrionLXm**
- Wide-Range Power Supply
- USB Maintenance Port
- Optional Ethernet Switch and Fiber Port
- IRIG-B
- Diagnostic LEDs Next to Ports

**OrionLX CPX**
- 3rd Ethernet Port
- Direct VGA Video
- Easy Access to Serial and Fiber Cards
- Redundant Wide-Range Power Supplies
- Built-in IRIG-B
- Built-in Discrete I/O
- Modem Port
- Modular Redundant Ethernet (Copper or Fiber)
Orion I/O

Orion I/O incorporates a unique capacitive touchfront display interface with the same Cyber Security features, software options, and configuration as every other Orion. It is a rack-mountable I/O assembly with four slots—A, B, C, and D—that can be filled with any combination of up to 64 Digital and 32 Analog I/O points in a 2RU format.
Capacitive Touchfront Interface Provides Easy Field Access to all Point Statuses

Up to Four IO Cards consisting of:
16 DI, 16 DI Wetted, 16 DO, 16 DO Hi-Powered, 8 AI

Power Supply

Optional Prewired D20 Retrofit Adapters

IRIG-B & RS232/485

Two Ethernet Ports
Features

All Orions leverage a common code base, the same configuration software (NovaTech Configuration Director) and the following features across all models:

**Cyber Security**

All Orions share the same secure Linux OS, support Integrity Measurement Architecture (IMA) to minimize malware risk, a stateful firewall, secure protocols (HTTPS, SSH, SFTP), Strong passwords and password rules, Remote Authentication with LDAP, tiered-access User Groups and a Syslog.

**Common Firmware**

All Orions share the same firmware version. Upgrades can be consistently accomplished in 10 minutes.

**Extensive Protocol Library**

50+ protocols, including IEC 61850, DNP3, 61870-101/104, Modbus, SEL, and legacy protocols. SEL Protocol enables engineering access, IRIG support and automatic retrieval of SEL Event Reports. SNMP Manager monitors switches, routers, servers and other network gear.

**Math and Logic Tools**

A new calculator is available enabling users to easily create equations using common Excel-style operators and notation including * / ( ) + - ^ SQRT() ABS() and ROUND(). IEC 61131-3 is available for complex math and logic.

**Cascading Orions**

Multiple Orion units can be “Cascaded” onto a single Orion RTU, enabling them to be configured as a single system, with one configuration file.

**Custom SVG Graphical Webpages**

One-line-diagrams, control screen and animated IED faceplates can be served out directly from Orion. Choose from more than 80 pre-drawn images including Orion and Bitronics products, substation IEDs, substation symbols, buttons, and links, or make your own in minutes.

**Tile Alarm Annunciator**

Pre-engineered alarm tile webpage for replacing hard-wired annunciators. Full software configurability for numbers of rows, columns, and tile names.

**Redundancy**

Orions can be configured as a hot-standby redundant pair to support applications as a SCADA RTU, substation HMI, Alarm Annunciator, SOE Recorder and substation controller with low-speed to medium-speed logic. Both Orions run identical NCD configurations, logic and webpage configurations, and configurations are auto-replicated between the two.

**Configuration Backup Manager**

Provides a simple and automatic method to retrieve and back-up configuration files from the OrionLX as well as settings files from attached SEL® protective relays. The Configuration Backup Manager also provides a convenient MD5 checksum on the backed up files which can be used to determine if any of the backup files have been changed from previous backups. Backed-up files can also be used for system restore.
### Feature Comparison by Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>OrionLX+</th>
<th>OrionLX CPX</th>
<th>OrionLXm</th>
<th>Orion I/O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPU</td>
<td>Quad Core @ 1.9GHz</td>
<td>1.33GHz</td>
<td>800MHz</td>
<td>800MHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>8GB</td>
<td>4GB</td>
<td>4GB</td>
<td>512MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethernet Ports</td>
<td>• <strong>Standard</strong>: 2 copper</td>
<td>• <strong>Standard</strong>: 2 copper</td>
<td>• <strong>Standard</strong>: 2 copper</td>
<td>• <strong>Standard</strong>: 2 copper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <strong>Opt.</strong>: +1 copper and +2 SFP on NovaCard</td>
<td>• <strong>Opt.</strong>: +1 copper or +1 fiber (MM). +1 copper on Multimedia Board</td>
<td>• <strong>Opt.</strong>: 6-port copper switch on 1 NIC, copper, MM or SM fiber on other NIC</td>
<td>• <strong>Standard</strong>: 2 copper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <strong>Total NICs</strong>: 5</td>
<td>• <strong>Total NICs</strong>: 3</td>
<td>• <strong>Total NICs</strong>: 5</td>
<td>• <strong>Total NICs</strong>: 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serial Ports for SCADA and IED Connections</td>
<td>Up to 17</td>
<td>Up to 17</td>
<td>Up to 8</td>
<td>One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRP/HSR</td>
<td>Yes, in Phase 2 NovaCard. Uses NIC #3.</td>
<td>PRP only. Uses NIC #1 and #2.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Video Port</td>
<td>1 Display Port on Multimedia Card</td>
<td>1 VGA Port on Multimedia Board</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrete I/O</td>
<td>4 DI / 4 DO on NovaCard plus alarm output</td>
<td>4 DI / 4 DO built in plus alarm output</td>
<td>• 1 DI and alarm output</td>
<td>Up to 64 Discrete I/O plus alarm contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 1 or 2 12 DI / 4 DO Cards optional</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Supply</td>
<td>Single or redundant, hot-swappable</td>
<td>Single or redundant</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>Single</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Points</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Multiple Functions, Minimal Headaches

The Orion family performs the functions of multiple single-purpose boxes in the electric utility substation, reducing cost and complexity. All Orions can connect to nearly any substation device in its native protocol, perform advanced math and logic, and securely present the source or calculated data to any number of clients in their own protocol. This enables the Orion Family to perform a continuously expanding number of applications in the utility substation.
Learn More!

For more information on our applications, please visit
novatechweb.com/substation-automation/orion-applications
for a library of short videos covering each application.
How Can We Help?

NovaTech products are designed with decades of expertise and backed by a professional staff dedicated to your satisfaction. In addition to outstanding product support, we offer a full range of design, development, fabrication, installation, and training services to meet your automation and engineering needs.

**Graphics Development**

Customized HMI graphics developed using the open source Inkscape graphics package are available in addition to an existing library of standard one-lines, IED faceplates, and other screens.

**Cabinetry & Packaging**

Full service cabinetry and custom enclosure design, fabrication, and testing available for substation equipment monitoring, cabinet or pole-top RTUs, and other applications.

**Applications Engineering**

NovaTech products are built to make the end application easier, and our experienced and professional staff can help you implement even the most ambitious automation schemes on time and on budget.

**Training & Conferences**

We offer onsite and classroom instruction in the use of our products and broader topics like Cyber Security. Meet your fellow users and learn from NovaTech experts at one of our ongoing technical symposium user events—visit our website for upcoming dates and locations.
The Orion Substation Automation Platform and Orion I/O leverage three decades of experience in integrating and automating utility substations. The lessons learned over hundreds of projects – and the challenges of applying less-than-optimal products – led us to design an automation platform that could perform the functions of multiple devices: RTUs, HMIs, Logic Processors, Security Gateways, Protective Relay Communications Processors, and more in a single, easily-configured box. Today, Orion leads the industry with seamless solutions to acquire substation data and move it to the right people, at the right time, in the right format. Over one hundred new users have adopted Orion for their substation automation tasks in the past four years.

◆◆ The Orion Design Team