BUSINESS NEWS

INDUSTRY FOCUS GE's Software **Future Starts** With Hardware

The company is testing networking gear to harness data spewed out by industrial machines

BY TED MANN

General Electric Co.'s corporate vision is to reshape the industrial world and its core businesses with advanced software. But to get there, it needs to sell some basic computer hardware first.

The conglomerate is developing and testing networking gear—rugged sensor boxes and customized routers and servers-to harness the data spewed out by massive industrial machines at power plants and oil rigs.

The conglomerate is building some devices itself and working with tech giants.

GE is building some devices itself and working with tech giants including Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co. and Cisco Systems Inc. on others.

Its newest hardware offerings address what communications experts call the lastmile problem: for those customers who accept that advanced sensors and cloud computing will make their machines more efficient, there is still a question about how to get data off these devices and into the cloud-computing environments with shared software and processing power.

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"Not every customer is ready to rip out their control system infrastructure, but they still want to get some benefit by being connected to the cloud," said Jim Walsh, CEO of GE's Automation & Controls business unit. By supplying the hardware, GE is trying to make it easier "to get started in a very noninvasive way" with

the company's software. GE's digital push, including its Predix software platform for industrial customers, was a focus Wednesday when executives gathered for the company's annual outlook meeting with investors and financial analysts.

The maker of power plants and jet engines is stretching to reach its profit targets for the year amid sluggish global growth. GE shares have gained 2.3% this year, compared with a 10.4% advance in the S&P 500, through Monday.

Some machines already can run using Predix. For others, GE has developed a small device, called the Field Agent, that pulls operational data from a piece of industrial machinery.

It also is working with partners to market an array of other hardware, including with Cisco on a Predix-ready router and with HPE and Dell Inc. on a hulking cabinet nicknamed the "Predix box," which will run Predix applications on-site at industrial workplaces.



be available in the second quarter of 2017, could be used by customers who want to keep more of their computing on-site, such as a power plant operator leery of sending too much data to the cloud.

GE said pricing would vary widely depending on the storage and capabilities of the machines, and on prices set by device manufacturers in some cases.

"Controls people usually get pretty nervous when you talk about linking to the cloud," said Danielle Merfeld, a technology director at GE's Global Research headquarters in Niskayuna, N.Y.

The hardware, and the apps it supports, will allow customers not only to better analyze the performance and health of their equipment, she said, but also to bring in external information such as

weather trends and electric power costs-to make splitsecond decisions on how to operate more profitably.

GE says it has more than 100 Field Agent devices installed at locations, including at some of its own factories. The company also has five larger devices called industrial-control servers in use, through pilot projects with customers.

Among those pilot tests is NRG Energy Inc.'s Hunterstown natural-gas power station in Gettysburg, Pa.

An NRG spokesman said the company has connected a GE control server to one of its power turbines in the plant, and is using data from the turbine, as well as pricing data pulled from the power markets, to "determine the optimum output for each unit at each particular hour."

GE software is being in-

stalled on two of NRG's other units in the Hunterstown plant. The NRG spokesman said it was too soon to determine how the system is working.

Steven Winoker, an equities analyst at Bernstein Research, said GE's software effort is promising, but the effort has put a company in the unusual position of selling servers and sensors, not long after it pulled out of other commoditized markets such as home appliances.

The various Predix boxes are "an awkward solution" to getting data onto GE's Predix platform, Mr. Winoker said, but one that won't be necessary in the future—as GE sells its heavy-duty machinery with sensors, processors and Predix software already inside.

Rivals including Siemens AG also are developing software and the hardware

needed to help industrial customers harness their data. GE partners such as HPE say the "rugged" devices they are building to handle harsh industrial environments will one day be incorporated directly into the heavy machinery itself.

and more capability into a box, but it's still a box," said Tom Bradicich, a vice presi-dent and general manager at HPE. "Our next grand challenge is to converge it into the thing—into the pump, the turbine, the conveyor belt, into the robotic arm."

Meanwhile, Mr. Walsh said the company is planning different sizes of hardware and multiple updates, and will market the equipment on a software model. "It's much more of a life cycle,' he said, "as opposed to 'Let's go sell a box.'

For Sale: Two Industrial Units

By TED MANN

General Electric Co. plans to raise \$4 billion by selling two of its smallest industrial units and promised to cut another \$1 billion in expenses, as the conglomerate tries to boost its profit margins by shrinking its operations.

electrical-distribution and grid industries, as well as its GE Water business. The two units combined account for \$5 bil-

Chief Executive Jeff Immelt said the company is still on track to hit a key investor target: earnings of \$2 per share in ues a trend of the past three 2018. To get there, the company will add new sources of revenue, including through a proposed tie-up of its oil and gas business with Baker Hughes Inc., and cut back on costs.

For next year, Mr. Immelt ing a service business rooted predicted the company would generate operating profits of about \$19 billion and around \$135 billion in revenue, with organic revenue growth of between 3% and 5%.

The announcement continyears, as Mr. Immelt has pared in software and the digital world. Mr. Immelt has sold off the bulk of the company's **GE** Capital financial services arm. signing deals to sell \$195 billion worth of businesses.

"We've made the company simpler," he said Wednesday. "We've made the company

lion in annual revenue.

"We're converging more

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, (EASTERN DIVISION)
In re: COSI, INC., et al.,*
Debtors...
(Jointy Administered)
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attached to the Order (the "Procedures").² PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, pursuant to the Order, a Substantial Shareholder may not consummate any purchase, sale, or other transfer of Common Stock or Beneficial Ownership of Com-mon Stock in violation of the Procedures, and any such transaction in violation of the Procedures shall be with any wide to knik.

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PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that pursuant to the order, the Procedures shall apply to the no ing and transfers of Common Stock or any Beneficial Ownership therein by a Substantial Shareholder someone who may become a Substantial Shareholder. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that upon the request of any entity, the proposed notice, clain and solicitation agent for the Debtors, will provide a copy of the Order and a form of each of the declarations required to be filed by the Procedures in a reasonable period of time. Such declaratio are also available via PACFB on the Court's which will be that (when the Such declarations the such that the such as the su

and solucitations required to be filed by the Procedures in a reasonable period of time. Such declarations are also available via PACER on the Court's website at http://www.mab.uscourts.gov/mab/for a fee. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN THE ORDER SHALL CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE AUTOMATIC STAY PROVISIONS OF SECTION 362 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT ANU PROHIBITED PURCHASE, SALE, OTHER TRANSFER OF COMMON STOCK, BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP THEREIN, OR OPTION WITH RESPECT THERETO IN VIOLATION OF THE ORDER IS PROHIBITED AND SHALL BE NULL AND VOID AB INITIO AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS AS THIS COURT MAY DETERMINE. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the requirements set forth in the Order are in addition to the requirements of applicable law and do not excuse compliance therewith. Respectfully Submitted, COSI, INC., *ET AL.*, By their counsel, *Is*/Kate P. Foley. JOSeph H. Baldiga, BBO #549963, Christine E. Devine, BBO #566990, Kate P. Foley, BBO #662548, Mirick, Connell. BeMailie & Lougee, LLP, 1800 West Park Drive, Suite 400, Westborough, MA O1551, Phone: (508) 898.1501, Fax: (508) 898.1502, Email: bankrupt@mirickoconnell.com, cdevine@mirickoconnell.com, Kfoley@mirickconnell.com

oley@mirickoconnell.com ated: December 7, 2016

¹ The Debtors in these Chapter 11 cases are Cosi, Inc. (Case No. 16-13704-MSH), Xando Cosi of Maryland, Inc. (Case No. 16-13706-MSH), Cosi Sandwich Bar, Inc. (Case No. 16-13705-MSH), Hearthstone Associates, LLC (Case No. 16-13707-MSH), and Hearthstone Partners, LLC (Case No. 16-13708-MSH). The Debtors' corporate offices are located at 294 Washington Street, Suite 510, Boston, Massachusetts 02108. The cases are jointly administered under the Cosi, Inc. case number. ² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meaning ascribed to them in the Order or the motion, as applicable.



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In a presentation Wednesday for financial analysts, GE said it plans to sell its Industrial Solutions business, which supplies equipment to the

back businesses in the sprawling conglomerate, betting that GE can grow faster by focusing more narrowly on heavy industrial equipment and build-

Toyota Tries a Sexier Look

Toyota's C-HR crossover sport-utility vehicle features exaggerated

popularity of crossovers and Toyota's presence in the global market.

GM Prepares to Unveil

curves and sharp angles. The auto maker hopes to sell 170,000 of the vehicles a year world-wide, a modest goal given the

deeper.

Mr. Immelt said GE will be seeking ways to cut costs by shrinking its footprint and closing some facilities.

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let Traverse, a seven-seat crossover, and the smaller GMC Terrain, according to people familiar with the plans. Neither

vehicle has been revamped since 2009 as the auto maker has been juggling a spate of engineering priorities in the years following its bankruptcy filing. Crossover vehicles are designed with the same architec-

BY MIKE COLIAS

from each sale.

General Motors Co. will

unveil a pair of revamped

crossover sport-utility vehicles

in coming weeks, an effort to

jump-start participation in a

hot segment of the U.S. mar-

ket it has somewhat neglected

and to squeeze more profits

Detroit auto show in January

to reveal a redesigned Chevro-

The auto giant will use the

Redesigned Crossovers tural underpinnings as sedans, but offer more versatility and typically command between \$3,000 to \$5000 more than passenger cars.

GM executives have told analysts to expect roughly \$1,000 more per profit per vehicle after the crossovers are redesigned compared with outgoing models, according to RBC Capital analyst Joseph Spak.

The overall GM crossover fleet has become among the oldest in the industry because of the company's recent focus on overhauling pickup-truck and passenger-car lineups.

A GM spokesman declined to comment on future product plans. Crossovers currently comprise about 27% of GM's U.S. sales and the company is likely to add more models in coming years.

Carolina. Dated: December 13, 2016 at Hamilton, Bermuda.