

AI in Oil Refinery Training for Process Optimization and Predictive Maintenance

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Johannesburg

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Ref: 103600654_83076 **Date:** 11 – 15 April 2027 **Location:** Johannesburg **Fees:** 4500 Euro

Course Overview:

The AI in Oil Refinery Training Course provides a practical, engineering-focused understanding of how artificial intelligence, machine learning, industrial data analytics, digital twins, and IIoT technologies can support modern refinery operations. The course is particularly relevant for Instrumentation, Automation & Control Engineers, while remaining suitable for process, reliability, maintenance, operations, and digital transformation professionals across petroleum refineries.

Participants explore how an AI Refinery environment uses process measurements, field instrumentation, DCS and SCADA data, process historians, equipment condition signals, and operational records to improve process control, asset reliability, safety, energy efficiency, and production performance. The petroleum-industry reference specifically identifies downstream applications including smart refining, plant modelling and simulation, remote operations, risk analysis, IoT connectivity, machine vision, and energy and asset management.

The course connects Artificial Intelligence in Oil Refinery with practical applications such as AI for Process Optimization, Refinery Optimization, Refinery Predictive Maintenance, Digital Twin Refinery, Oil and Gas Data Analytics, Machine Learning Oil and Gas, and IIoT Oil and Gas. It also addresses implementation challenges such as legacy control systems, fragmented data, cybersecurity, workforce capability, data quality, and integration constraints, which are identified as major barriers to effective AI adoption in oil and gas operations.

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Target Audience:

- Instrumentation, Automation & Control Engineers
- Process Control Engineers
- Instrumentation Engineers
- Automation Engineers
- Refinery Process Engineers
- Chemical and Petroleum Engineers
- Reliability and Maintenance Engineers
- Asset Integrity Engineers
- Operations and Production Engineers
- DCS and SCADA Engineers
- Industrial IT and OT Engineers
- Digital Transformation Engineers
- Data and Analytics Professionals
- Energy Efficiency Engineers
- Technical Managers and Engineering Leaders

Targeted Organizational Departments:

- Instrumentation and Control
- Automation and Process Control
- Refinery Operations
- Process Engineering
- Maintenance and Reliability
- Asset Integrity
- Production
- Digital Transformation
- Operational Technology
- Information Technology
- Data Analytics and AI
- Engineering and Technical Services
- Energy Management
- HSE and Process Safety
- Operational Excellence

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Targeted Industries:

- Petroleum Refining
- Oil and Gas
- Petrochemicals
- Chemical Processing
- Gas Processing
- Hydrocarbon Processing
- Integrated Energy Companies
- Industrial Process Manufacturing
- Refinery Engineering Services
- Industrial Automation and Control

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Explain the role of AI in Oil Refinery operations.
- Identify AI opportunities within instrumentation, automation, and process control environments.
- Understand how refinery process data can be prepared and used for AI and analytics.
- Apply AI for Process Optimization to improve refinery operating performance.
- Recognize how machine learning supports abnormal condition and fault detection.
- Understand predictive maintenance using equipment and instrumentation data.
- Explain Digital Twin Refinery concepts and architecture.
- Understand IIoT Oil and Gas connectivity and edge data applications.
- Evaluate AI integration with DCS, SCADA, PLC, and process historian systems.
- Interpret AI-supported alarm analytics and operational decision support.
- Identify cybersecurity, data quality, and legacy-system integration risks.
- Develop a practical AI implementation roadmap for refinery operations.

Training Methodology:

The training uses an applied engineering approach focused on how AI technologies interact with refinery instrumentation, automation, and control systems. Participants will examine realistic refinery scenarios involving process measurements, control loops, instrumentation signals, alarms, process historians, equipment-condition data, and operational KPIs.

Interactive sessions introduce AI in Oil and Gas concepts through practical examples of process optimization, anomaly detection, predictive maintenance, digital twins, intelligent monitoring, and operational decision support. The petroleum-industry reference supports this approach through downstream applications involving smart refining, advanced process modelling, IoT-connected systems, machine vision, remote operations, and asset management.

Group exercises focus on identifying data sources, defining useful process variables, interpreting trends, selecting appropriate AI use cases, and determining where AI can support rather than replace engineering judgment.

Participants also examine implementation barriers including legacy automation systems, fragmented data environments, insufficient infrastructure, cybersecurity exposure, workforce capability, and data quality. These challenges are directly reflected in the uploaded oil and gas AI research.

The methodology combines instructor-led explanation, refinery cases, technical discussions, process-data interpretation, use-case mapping, group problem solving, technology examples, and implementation planning.

Course Toolbox:

Tools and commercial software platforms are not provided. Participants receive practical insights, examples, templates, and frameworks relevant to refinery AI applications.

- AI Refinery Use-Case Identification Framework
- Instrumentation Data Mapping Template
- Process Variable Selection Guide
- DCS and SCADA Data Integration Example
- Process Historian Data Flow Example
- AI for Process Optimization Framework
- Refinery Predictive Maintenance Template
- Sensor Health and Data Quality Checklist
- Digital Twin Refinery Architecture Example
- IIoT Connectivity Mapping Template
- Alarm Analytics Framework
- Fault Detection and Diagnostics Example
- Refinery AI Feasibility Matrix
- AI Business Value Evaluation Template
- OT Cybersecurity Considerations Checklist
- AI Implementation Readiness Checklist
- Refinery Digital Transformation Roadmap Template

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Course Agenda

Day 1: AI, Instrumentation Data and Refinery Digital Foundations

- **Topic 1:** AI in Oil Refinery: Applications across Modern Refinery Operations
- **Topic 2:** From Conventional Automation to the AI Refinery: Digital Transformation of Refinery Systems
- **Topic 3:** Refinery Instrumentation Data: Pressure, Temperature, Flow, Level, Analytical, and Equipment Signals
- **Topic 4:** Oil and Gas Data Analytics: DCS, SCADA, PLC, Historian, Maintenance, and Laboratory Data
- **Topic 5:** Machine Learning Oil and Gas: Prediction, Classification, Pattern Recognition, and Anomaly Detection
- **Topic 6:** Selecting AI for Refinery Operations: Matching Operational Problems with AI Applications
- **Reflection & Review:** Map existing refinery instrumentation and automation data to practical AI opportunities.

Day 2: AI for Process Control and Refinery Optimization

- **Topic 1:** AI for Process Optimization: Improving Process Stability, Efficiency, and Operating Performance
- **Topic 2:** Refinery Process Optimization using Real-Time Measurements and Historical Operating Data
- **Topic 3:** AI-Supported Process Control: Identifying Relationships between Controlled and Manipulated Variables
- **Topic 4:** Advanced Process Monitoring for Crude Distillation, Fractionation, and Refinery Process Units
- **Topic 5:** Machine Learning for Process Deviation, Constraint, and Abnormal Condition Detection
- **Topic 6:** AI-Enabled Decision Support for Operators and Control Engineers
- **Reflection & Review:** Analyze a refinery process-control scenario and identify suitable AI-supported optimization opportunities.

Day 3: Intelligent Instrumentation, Predictive Maintenance and Reliability

- **Topic 1:** Predictive Maintenance Oil and Gas: Using Instrument and Equipment Condition Data
- **Topic 2:** Refinery Predictive Maintenance for Pumps, Compressors, Motors, Valves, and Rotating Equipment
- **Topic 3:** Intelligent Sensors and Condition Monitoring: Vibration, Temperature, Pressure, Flow, and Equipment Health
- **Topic 4:** Machine Learning for Fault Detection, Diagnostics, and Failure Prediction
- **Topic 5:** AI Applications for Control Valve Performance, Instrument Degradation, and Sensor Reliability
- **Topic 6:** Asset Integrity Analytics: Corrosion, Leakage, Equipment Health, and Maintenance Prioritization
- **Reflection & Review:** Build a predictive-maintenance use case linking sensor signals, failure modes, alarms, and maintenance actions.

Day 4: DCS, SCADA, IIoT and Digital Twin Refinery Applications

- **Topic 1:** Digital Twin Refinery: Linking Physical Assets, Process Models, Instrumentation, and Operational Data
- **Topic 2:** Digital Twin Oil and Gas Applications for Process Units, Equipment, and Control Systems
- **Topic 3:** IIoT Oil and Gas Architecture: Sensors, Edge Devices, Gateways, Networks, and Industrial Data Platforms
- **Topic 4:** AI Integration with DCS, SCADA, PLC, and Process Historian Systems
- **Topic 5:** AI-Based Alarm Analytics, Abnormal Situation Management, and Intelligent Monitoring
- **Topic 6:** Edge Analytics, Remote Monitoring, and AI-Supported Operational Decision Making
- **Reflection & Review:** Design a conceptual refinery architecture connecting instruments, control systems, historians, IIoT, digital twins, and AI analytics.

Day 5: AI Implementation, Governance and Refinery Digital Transformation

- **Topic 1:** Refinery Digital Transformation: From Automation Data to Operational Intelligence
- **Topic 2:** Selecting High-Value AI Projects based on Process Impact, Data Availability, and Technical Feasibility
- **Topic 3:** Data Quality for AI: Sensor Accuracy, Calibration, Missing Data, Noise, and Historian Integrity
- **Topic 4:** OT Cybersecurity and AI Integration: Protecting Industrial Control and Connected Refinery Systems
- **Topic 5:** Legacy Systems, Integration Challenges, Human Oversight, and AI Governance
- **Topic 6:** Developing an AI Refinery Roadmap: Pilot Selection, Deployment, Scaling, and Performance Measurement
- **Reflection & Review:** Develop a practical AI implementation roadmap for one instrumentation, automation, control, maintenance, or refinery optimization use case.

FAQ:

What specific qualifications or prerequisites are needed for participants before enrolling in the course?

No formal AI, data science, or programming qualification is required. A technical background in refinery operations, instrumentation, automation, process control, maintenance, reliability, process engineering, or industrial systems is beneficial. The course focuses on understanding and applying AI within refinery environments rather than programming AI models from scratch.

How long is each day's session, and is there a total number of hours required for the entire course?

Each day's session is generally structured to last around 4-5 hours, with breaks and interactive activities included. The total course duration spans one week, approximately 20-25 hours of instruction.

Will this course help Instrumentation, Automation & Control Engineers understand how AI integrates with existing refinery control systems?

Yes. A major part of the course focuses on how AI can work with instrumentation data, DCS, SCADA, PLC systems, process historians, IIoT sensors, alarm systems, and digital twins. Participants examine how existing operational data can support anomaly detection, predictive maintenance, process optimization, fault diagnostics, and operational decision support.

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How This Course is Different from Other AI in Oil Refinery Courses:

This course is designed around the engineering reality of refinery operations rather than treating artificial intelligence as a standalone IT subject. It combines AI in Oil Refinery with instrumentation, automation, process control, maintenance, reliability, IIoT, digital twins, and refinery process optimization.

A key differentiator is its focus on the operational data that already exists inside refineries. Participants examine how signals from field instruments, DCS and SCADA systems, process historians, equipment sensors, alarms, and maintenance systems can support AI-driven decisions.

The course also places significant emphasis on Digital Twin Refinery, Refinery Predictive Maintenance, AI for Process Optimization, intelligent alarm analytics, sensor reliability, and AI integration with industrial control systems. This reflects the petroleum-industry literature, which identifies downstream AI applications including smart refining, advanced modelling, IoT integration, remote monitoring, risk analysis, and asset management.

It also addresses practical implementation issues. The uploaded research highlights data quality, legacy systems, cybersecurity, infrastructure, workforce capability, cost, and organisational readiness as major barriers to AI adoption.