CLAIMS

There is claimed:

1. A method for communication and sharing of an equipment operating indicator for a plurality of users, the method comprising:

building a user group from the plurality of users for communication;

creating a work item indicative of a task performed in an industrial plant;

sending work item information to the user group, wherein the sent work item information is inputted by a user of the user group;

receiving work item information from the user group;

determining whether the user sending or receiving the work item information has a role or permission to access at least one equipment operating parameter;

generating an equipment operating status from the equipment operating parameter relating to the work item, upon determining that the user sending or receiving the work item information has the role or permission~~sending information inputted by a user of the user group to the user group;~~

~~receiving information from the user group;~~

~~accessing an equipment operating parameter from a system;~~

~~generating an equipment operating status from the equipment operating parameter~~; and

sending the equipment operating status to the user group.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

organizing the sent or received information for displaying based on a priority indicator of the sent or received information.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the sent or received information comprises at least one of the equipment operating indicator, a text message, a voice message, a photograph, and a video.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the accessing the equipment operating parameter from the system comprises accessing a real time equipment operating parameter from a server of the system.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the sent or received information comprises a task and task completion status that is transmitted back to a server of the system for storage.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the sending the equipment operating status to the user group allows for concurrent viewing of the equipment operating status by the user group.

7. A system comprising at least one device for communicating and sharing of an equipment operating indicator for a plurality of users, the system comprising:

at least one non-transitory computer readable medium operable to store program code;

at least one processor operable to read said program code and operate as instructed by the program code, the program code comprising:

building code that builds a user group from the plurality of users for communication;

creation code that creates a work item indicative of a task performed in an industrial plant;

information sending code that sends work item information inputted by ~~from~~ a user of the user group to the user group;

receiving code that receives work item information from the user group;

determination code that determines the user sending or receiving the work item information has a role or permission to access at least one equipment operating parameter;

~~accessing code that accesses an equipment operating parameter from a system;~~

generating code that generates an equipment operating status from the equipment operating parameter relating to the work item, upon determining that the user sending or receiving the work item information has the role or permission; and

status sending code that sends the equipment operating status to the user group.

8. The system according to claim 7, the program code further comprising:

organizing code that organizes the sent or received information for displaying based on a priority indicator of the sent or received information.

9. The system according to claim 7, wherein the sent or received information comprises at least one of the equipment operating indicator, a text message, a voice message, a photograph, and a video.

10. The system according to claim 7, wherein the accessing the equipment operating parameter from the system comprises accessing a real time equipment operating parameter from a server of the system.

11. The system according to claim 7, wherein the sent or received information comprises a task and task completion status that is transmitted back to a server of the system for storage.

12. The system according to claim 7, wherein the sending the equipment operating status to the user group allows for concurrent viewing of the equipment operating status by the user group.

13. An apparatus for communicating and sharing of an equipment operating indicator for a plurality of users, the apparatus comprising:

at least one non-transitory computer readable medium operable to store program code;

at least one processor operable to read said program code and operate as instructed by the program code, the program code comprising:

building code that builds a user group from the plurality of users for communication;

creation code that creates a work item indicative of a task performed in an industrial plant;

information sending code that sends information ~~from~~ inputted by a user of the user group to the user group;

receiving code that receives work item information from the user group;

determination code that determines the user sending or receiving the work item information has a role or permission to access at least one equipment operating parameter;~~accessing code that accesses an equipment operating parameter from a system;~~

generating code that generates an equipment operating status from the equipment operating parameter relating to the work item, upon determining that the user sending or receiving the work item information has the role or permission; and

status sending code that sends the equipment operating status to the user group.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13, the program code further comprising:

organizing code that organizes the sent or received information for displaying based on a priority indicator of the sent or received information.

15. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the sent or received information comprises at least one of the equipment operating indicator, a text message, a voice message, a photograph, and a video.

16. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the accessing the equipment operating parameter from the system comprises accessing a real time equipment operating parameter from a server of the system.

17. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the sent or received information comprises a task and task completion status that is transmitted back to a server of the system for storage.

18. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the sending the equipment operating status to the user group allows for concurrent viewing of the equipment operating status by the user group.