

Frequently Asked Questions: RTC-COAG

Q: What is “RTC,” “Claros™ Process Management,” and “RTC-COAG?”

A: “RTC” means Real-Time Control and generally refers to solutions that utilize real-time data inputs for process automation and control. “Claros Process Management” (CPM) is a suite of Hach® RTC software solutions and personalized support that helps manage, optimize, and automate water treatment processes. “RTC-COAG” is a single software module that optimizes and controls the coagulation / flocculation of influent source water.

Q: How does the RTC-COAG software work? What technology does it use?

A: Coagulation is a complex process which is influenced by several raw water parameters. RTC-COAG utilizes machine learning and the input of these raw water parameters (pH, turbidity, UVT, and temperature, among others) to deliver optimal coagulant dosing in real time. The software uses a combination of modified feedback PID loops and feed forward algorithms to determine the right dosing strategy for coagulation stability and efficiency.

Q: What are the benefits of the RTC-COAG?

A: The RTC-COAG offers many benefits: Real-time visibility: With real-time data and visualizations, you can see and understand exactly what is going on in the coagulation process at any time and how the software is responding. This visibility eliminates guesswork and uncertainty!

Consistent results: Achieve your target finished water quality in variable conditions and across all staff shifts, 24/7. This means peace of mind as it helps ensure production continues, comply with permits, and protect your public reputation.

Time savings: RTC-COAG’s constant monitoring and automatic adjustments relieve you and your team of manual tasks, freeing up time and focus for other higher-value production tasks.

Chemical optimization: RTC-COAG minimizes chemical use while meeting your target finished water quality, avoiding both over-dosing and under-dosing. This can lead to chemical savings and improved finished water quality!

Training and knowledge preservation: Coagulation process knowledge is built into the software logic. With its powerful visuals and reports, RTC-COAG facilitates conversations and experiences to more easily train staff and share information.

Q: What parts or components are needed?

A: RTC-COAG is a software solution. However, other components are needed for implementation, including a touchscreen Industrial



PC, transmitter, and instrumentation. All of these components are available through Hach and many can be obtained through other suppliers. Your Hach sales manager and CPM specialist are available to perform a free site survey to determine your specific needs.

Q: How is this different than SCADA or a PID loop built by a local integrator or programmer?

A: RTC-COAG is much more than simple PID loops and works with any existing SCADA system. It utilizes machine learning and a variety of parameter inputs to adjust coagulant dosing in real time, optimizing chemical costs and ensuring compliant finished water. With over 1,300 installs globally, our RTC solutions are proven and come with a deeply experienced support system for ongoing success.

Q: How does RTC-COAG safely connect to my network and systems?

A: RTC-COAG integrates with your systems using the highest standard of security protocols. We are flexible to meet the IT security needs of your organization. Visit us at hach.com/claros to read the Claros Security Whitepaper.

Q: How do I know this will work for my site’s Coagulation/Flocculation processes?

A: Through deep experience (over 1,300 RTC installs), we have seen and successfully overcome many unique, site-specific challenges. This solution is proven and standardized but tailored to the needs of your site and process. We encourage you to contact your Hach sales manager for RTC-COAG references.

FAQ: RTC-COAG

Q: What fallback or protection strategies are included in case something goes wrong?

A: Every one of the Hach RTC solutions, including RTC-COAG, has built-in fallback strategies in case of malfunction and in other user-defined scenarios. We support you as you define the what, when, and how these strategies are employed.

Q: I'm not ready yet for automation, can RTC-COAG be used for recommendations only?

A: Yes. The RTC-COAG may be used in a feed forward, recommendation-only mode if desired. Maximum benefits are obtained through automation, but there is absolutely stand-alone value in the new data and recommendations.

Q: Does RTC-COAG integrate with other Hach Claros™ solutions like Mobile Sensor Management™?

A: Yes. Customers can implement RTC-COAG alone or combine it with other Claros solutions such as Mobile Sensor Management™ to unlock additional value. Please discuss these possibilities with your Hach sales manager.

Q: What is the process for setup and installation?

A: Post-purchase, Hach RTC Project Management and RTC Tech Support teams meet with you to verify your order and site requirements and to map out a plan for a successful installation, commissioning, and optimization.

Q: What upkeep or maintenance is required?

A: RTC-COAG software does not require regular maintenance. However, customers highly value ongoing RTC Tech Support for proactive monitoring and re-optimization if needed. Underlying instruments should be maintained normally.

Q: What Hach Service Plans and Support Plans are available?

A: Commissioning and initial RTC Tech Support services are included in each RTC-COAG purchase to ensure success. The RTC Tech Support service may be renewed thereafter. Learn more and explore our full service set at hach.com/service.

Q: How much does the RTC-COAG cost and what return on investment (ROI) can be expected?

A: Because each site is unique and may require different supporting components, we provide RTC-COAG pricing in a tailored proposal. ROI can vary due to many factors, but most RTC customers see payback periods of 1-3 years.



Q: We don't spend a lot on chemicals for our coagulation, why use this?

A: Chemical savings are important but not the only reason to use the RTC-COAG. Other key drivers include peace of mind, improved coagulation performance and consistency, process visibility, time savings, effective training, and knowledge sharing.

Q: How do I order an RTC-COAG solution?

A: Speak with your local Hach sales manager to request a proposal. You can also start by emailing orders@hach.com, filling out an interest form at hach.com/claros/process-management-overview, or by calling us at the number listed on your local hach.com page.

Q: How can I learn more?

A: To learn more and access additional RTC-COAG resources, reach out to your local Hach sales manager, visit hach.com/claros/process-management-overview, or explore Hach Support Online at support.hach.com/app/home.

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