

Mitsubishi Electric urges UK manufacturers to strengthen supply chain cybersecurity as attacks rise

Hatfield, UK – September 2026

With energy prices rising due to ongoing disruption to global supply chains, Mitsubishi Electric is urging UK manufacturers to take immediate steps to manage their energy usage.

Manufacturers are being urged to strengthen cybersecurity throughout their supply chains amid a sharp rise in attacks targeting trusted software providers, suppliers and third-party partners.

The warning, from Mitsubishi Electric Automation Systems Division UK, follows [a recent supply chain attack](#) involving disk imaging software that affected thousands of systems worldwide, including those within the manufacturing sector. The attackers deployed malicious code through legitimate software downloads, using it to gather information on thousands of systems before selectively targeting organisations of interest with a second-stage backdoor.



The incident highlights a growing challenge for manufacturers. According to recent industry research, supply chain attacks have [increased by 20% year-on-year](#), making them the fastest-growing cyber threat to the sector. As manufacturers continue to connect operational technology (OT), IT systems and external partners, every supplier relationship and software dependency has the potential to become an attack vector. The need to strengthen cybersecurity across the wider manufacturing ecosystem is becoming increasingly important as manufacturers prepare for evolving regulatory requirements, including the Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) that mandates greater oversight of cybersecurity risks across product lifecycles and supply chains.

David Bean, Business Development Group Manager at Mitsubishi Electric Automation Systems Division, said: "Cybersecurity can no longer be viewed as something that begins and ends within a manufacturer's own network. Modern manufacturing operations depend on a complex ecosystem of software providers,

equipment suppliers, systems integrators and service partners, all of which can introduce risk if they are not properly managed.

"The recent supply chain attack demonstrates how cybercriminals are increasingly targeting trusted relationships rather than attacking organisations directly. If a supplier or software provider is compromised, that risk can quickly extend across multiple businesses."

He advises manufacturers to adopt a layered approach to cybersecurity that extends beyond internal systems and considers the resilience of the wider supply chain.

"Manufacturers should have visibility of every system connected to their operations and understand who has access to critical assets and data. This includes implementing robust access controls, assessing the cybersecurity practices of suppliers and third-party partners, and ensuring security requirements are consistently applied across the wider ecosystem.

"Not only does this mean protecting internal systems but also scrutinising vendor networks and third-party partners. With cyber threats continuing to evolve, organisations that take a proactive approach to supply chain security will be better positioned to maintain business continuity, protect sensitive data and minimise operational disruption."

With supply chain attacks continuing to rise and regulatory expectations increasing, Mitsubishi Electric is encouraging manufacturers to review cybersecurity beyond their own networks. This includes understanding the security practices of software providers, suppliers and third-party partners, whilst ensuring appropriate controls are in place across connected systems. Taking a proactive approach to supply chain security can help reduce cyber risk, support business continuity and strengthen resilience against emerging threats.

For more information, please visit <https://gb.mitsubishielectric.com/en/>

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With more than 100 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (TOKYO: 6503) is a recognized world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, energy, transportation and building equipment. Mitsubishi Electric enriches society with technology in the spirit of its "Changes for the Better." The company recorded a revenue of 5,521.7 billion yen (U.S.\$ 36.8 billion*) in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025.

For more information, please visit www.MitsubishiElectric.com

**U.S. dollar amounts are translated from yen at the rate of ¥150=U.S.\$1, the approximate rate on the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market on March 31, 2025.*

About Mitsubishi Electric Factory Automation Business Group

Offering a vast range of automation and processing technologies, including controllers, drive products, power distribution and control products, electrical discharge machines, electron beam machines, laser processing machines, computerized numerical controllers, and industrial robots, Mitsubishi Electric helps bring higher productivity – and quality – to the factory floor. In addition, its extensive service networks around the globe provide direct communication and comprehensive support to customers. The global slogan “Automating the World” shows the company’s approach to leverage automation for the betterment of society, through the application of advanced technology, sharing know how and supporting customers as a trusted partner.

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Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V., Factory Automation EMEA has its European headquarters in Ratingen near Dusseldorf, Germany. It is a part of Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V. that has been represented in Germany since 1978, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Japan. The role of Factory Automation EMEA is to manage sales, service and support across its network of local branches and distributors throughout the EMEA region.

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Press contact:

Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V.

Automation Systems Division

Melanie Bright

Media Relations

Tel: +44 (0)1707 276100

Mob: +44 (0)7738 483859

Melanie.bright@meuk.mee.com

Story/Editor:

WPR Agency

Associate Director

Mob: +44 (0)7880 381 665

andy@wpragency.com

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Automation Systems Division

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Media Relations

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Melanie.bright@meuk.mee.com

Story/Editor:

WPR Agency

Andy Williams

Associate Director

Mob: +44 (0)7880 381 665

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