



**ECHELON
RISK +
CYBER**

MONTAUK
RENEWABLES

SECURING RENEWABLE ENERGY:

Montauk-Echelon Partnership Redefines Cyber Protection

How Montauk Renewables Cut
Critical Vulnerabilities by 90%
with Echelon Risk + Cyber's
vCISO Managed Service

echeloncyber.com



A Renewable Energy Leader Tackling Cyber Challenges to Protect Critical Infrastructure

Montauk Renewables, a leader in renewable energy, has spent decades at the forefront of biogas-fueled energy innovation. With multiple facilities and a commitment to sustainability, their technical environment was expansive, spanning both standard corporate IT systems and industrial OT systems across over 15 independent facilities. However, as a publicly traded company on NASDAQ, the stakes were even higher when it came to meeting SEC cybersecurity regulations while fortifying its infrastructure against evolving threats:



Matthew Lawrence, Director of IT at Montauk, shared the initial struggle:

“We were looking at a tall mountain with no guidance. Our previous gap assessment made it clear **there were vulnerabilities, but we didn’t know where to begin,** especially with so many operational nuances needing attention.”



The partnership began when Montauk sought a new Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) platform and ultimately selected CrowdStrike Falcon. Echelon was introduced and later became an integral partner in helping Montauk mature its cybersecurity program. Matthew recounted, “After looking at CrowdStrike and two or three others, we ultimately went with CrowdStrike. What really matured this partnership was how involved Echelon was with our onboarding. It just launched into us understanding that wow, you guys do so much more.”

Echelon’s solution began with a comprehensive gap assessment, transitioning to a [fully managed vCISO service](#), and developing a 12-month roadmap tailored to Montauk’s needs. Matthew reflected on the early alignment, saying, “Echelon broke it down—what we were doing well, where gaps were critical, and how to turn vulnerabilities into actionable next steps.

Strategic Planning for SEC Compliance and Infrastructure Resilience

At the core of Montauk's transformation was the 12-month roadmap, a structured plan prioritizing cybersecurity initiatives while aligning IT and OT systems. Matthew explained: "The roadmap gave us clarity and focus. We no longer felt reactive—we were in control."

Paul Interval, Director of vCISO Services at Echelon, elaborated:

"We conducted a gap assessment using the CIS Controls framework. The outcome was a roadmap that identified key weaknesses and set realistic, actionable goals. It wasn't just about listing gaps—it was about applying context to prioritize efforts effectively."



The roadmap included:



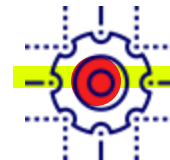
Short- and Long-Term Goals

Vulnerability management and
OT-IT integration



Compliance Priorities

Meeting SEC directives
through a structured GRC
program



Operational Focus

Building vendor inventories,
improving policy frameworks,
and enhancing team training

Matthew emphasized the difference it made:

"Thanks to Echelon's leadership, we've shifted from firefighting to strategic execution."

Scaling Expertise to Achieve Cybersecurity Maturity

Montauk found that traditional advisory engagements were insufficient for their needs. They required both strategic oversight and tactical execution—a gap perfectly filled by Echelon’s vCISO and STaaS (Security Team as a Service) model.

Paul Interval, Director of vCISO Services at Echelon, explained, “Our team approach allowed us to integrate as a full partner and extension of Montauk, not just a vendor. We reviewed their environment holistically, from On-Prem to the Cloud, and built a prioritized roadmap aligned to their business goals and regulatory obligations.”

Echelon’s role was instrumental in ensuring constant and adaptive cybersecurity leadership as Montauk faced challenges like implementing an enterprise-wide ERP system. Despite this resource-heavy distraction, Montauk’s security roadmap stayed on course.



Shir Butbul, GRC Manager at Echelon, credited the adaptability of the partnership, saying:

“With their resources stretched thin, our dedicated support ensured that **progress was consistently made** on security initiatives.”

A landscape photograph showing a mountain range under a blue sky with some clouds, and a forest of evergreen trees in the foreground.

Montauk also benefited significantly from the ability to scale expertise exactly when it was needed. Whether conducting policy workshops or fine-tuning incident response strategies, Echelon’s STaaS offering ensured Montauk always had the right resource, at the right time, for the right need.

Strengthening Endpoint Visibility with CrowdStrike Falcon

A pivotal step in Montauk's security transformation was selecting and deploying the CrowdStrike Falcon EDR tool. Matthew Lawrence recalled the transition fondly, "We'd dealt with previous vendors whose promises never lined up with results. With CrowdStrike, supported by Echelon, we finally had the visibility and control to confidently protect our environment."



Beyond monitoring and alerting capabilities, CrowdStrike provided tangible assurances. Echelon's contributions didn't stop at deployment. By running an acceleration workshop, Echelon ensured Montauk was utilizing the tool efficiently and effectively right from the outset.



Paul Matvey, Senior Cybersecurity Manager at Echelon, highlighted the results:

"CrowdStrike didn't just elevate their endpoint security—it enabled Montauk with a cybersecurity platform that provided critical visibility into their cybersecurity posture.

Our acceleration services, along with the very capable team at Montauk, ensured they realized value and reduced risk quickly as we moved forward with a structured implementation plan."

As a trusted expert in a range of industry-leading cybersecurity platforms and tools, Echelon also took an objective approach to evaluating and improving Montauk's SIEM and SOC managed services. "We took an inventory of their security tools and orchestration capabilities, ensuring that our recommendations aligned with their risk management goals and roadmap. We found the Falcon platform to integrate nicely with their security stack, while CrowdStrike's rapid response services help IT and security teams sleep easier, knowing they are covered," said Paul Matvey. This strategic outlook ensured Montauk's investments across technologies provided maximum coverage for their environment.

Maturing Cybersecurity Programs Through Policy and Program Precision

Compliance served as a central driver for Montauk's cybersecurity program. Meeting compliance requirements required maintaining stringent, highly organized security initiatives across all facets of their infrastructure. Echelon achieved this by formalizing Montauk's program—from fundamental policies to executive-level tracking mechanisms. The introduction of Echelon's custom cybersecurity management portal proved to be a game-changer for Montauk.

Paul Interval said:

“Our portal allowed Montauk to monitor every moving piece, from individual security tasks to long-term policies and compliance workflows.”

Echelon also conducted hands-on policy workshops, ensuring Montauk's technical teams understood not only the purpose but also the real-world execution of best practices.

Shir Butbul added:

“Having clear, consistent policies covering domains like access control, vendor risk management, and data protection **transformed how their teams thought about day-to-day security.**”

This ensured Montauk didn't just meet compliance standards — they exceeded them.



Bridging Visibility Gaps to Secure Critical Energy Systems

Securing Operational Technology (OT) environments presents challenges that differ drastically from those in IT. At Montauk, OT facilities relied on legacy systems operating independently, creating silos of potential risk.

Echelon identified the deployment of the Dragos OT Cybersecurity platform as critical for bridging these gaps:

According to Paul Matvey:

“The Dragos platform provided centralized visibility, enabling detection and response capabilities across its OT facilities for the first time, eliminating blind spots that traditional cybersecurity platforms can’t address.”

DRAGOS

Beyond just implementing Dragos, Echelon oversaw vulnerability scans, guided threat detection approaches, and navigated the intricate balance between maintaining uptime (critical to energy production) and implementing timely patching.



Building Readiness Through Tabletop Exercises and Playbooks

For Montauk, the leap from having no formalized response capabilities to conducting robust incident planning was monumental.

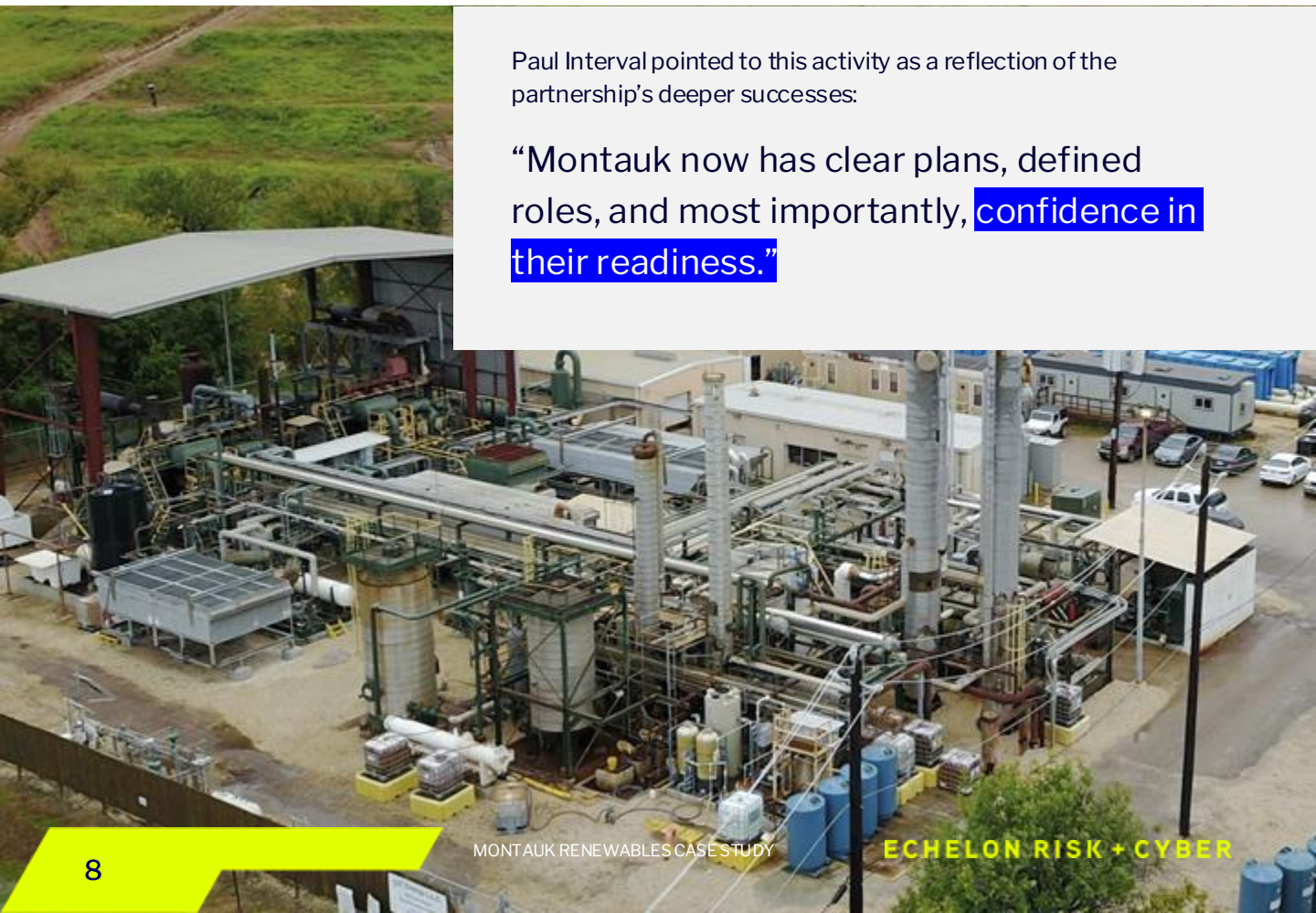
Echelon not only built Montauk's incident response playbook but also ran their first-ever tabletop exercise.

Matthew Lawrence said:

“The exercise was enlightening, it wasn’t just theoretical; it was a hands-on walkthrough of what a breach could look like and exactly how we’d respond. Bridging IT and OT considerations was critical.”

Paul Interval pointed to this activity as a reflection of the partnership's deeper successes:

“Montauk now has clear plans, defined roles, and most importantly, confidence in their readiness.”



OUTCOME

Reducing Vulnerabilities and Achieving Cross-Functional Cybersecurity Excellence

At the core of Montauk's transformation was the 12-month roadmap, a structured plan prioritizing cybersecurity initiatives while aligning IT and OT systems. Matthew explained:

"The roadmap gave us clarity and focus. We no longer felt reactive—we were in control."

Montauk achieved measurable results:

- Critical-severity vulnerabilities reduced by 90%
- High-severity vulnerabilities consistently under 20% of total open vulnerabilities
- Enhanced collaboration across IT and OT teams

Reflecting on the partnership, Matthew Lawrence said:

"Echelon didn't just help us check boxes—they partnered with us to make meaningful, scalable changes that make our systems safer every day. Their team is an extension of ours."



A Future-Focused Partnership for Continued Cybersecurity Success



With a foundation of trust and mutual investment established, Montauk and Echelon are already looking ahead. As the renewable energy industry expands and risks become more advanced, the partnership stands as a best-practice example of how tailored, managed vCISO services can deliver measurable results in even the most complex environments.

“We genuinely felt like more than just a client. **There was a real sense of partnership and a vested interest in helping us reach the level we needed to achieve...** Echelon has risen to the top in an impressively short time. That speaks volumes.

This is a true reflection of what Dan [Desko] has built—the vision and the talent he has brought together at [Echelon](#). It's helped us immensely, and I'm excited to see what we achieve next year and in the years to come.”

– Matthew Lawrence



ECHELON RISK + CYBER

echeloncyber.com