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Sommario/riassunto	Variable speed drive technology spans virtually the entire industrial revolution, from the development of the steam engine to modern microprocessor-based electronic motor controllers. Applications of the technology range from miniature motors that can be held in one's hand to pieces of rotating equipment that are considerably larger than the tallest man. Refinements of this technology, fueled in recent years by improved reliability and performance of electronic devices, are occurring at a more rapid pace than ever, resulting in greater performance at lower cost. The net result is a new world of technical and economic opportunity for those who are astute enough to grasp the potential of this technology in its various and sundry forms.