



“Syngenta Case Study – a platform for success”

Syngenta is a market leader in crop protection with annual sales topping \$8 billion. It is vital that Syngenta can rely on every element of its production process across the 96 countries in which it operates. However, an obsolescent DCS system at its Huddersfield plant threatened essential infrastructure and forced the company to consider a migration strategy to a modern, more flexible system.

DCS Migration

Siemens A&D, engineers at Syngenta were confident that the legacy Kent K90 control system could be migrated efficiently with minimum production downtime.

“To continue to support our existing DCS system would have been very expensive and, therefore, we opted for a full system replacement,” explains Mick Pearson, Process Control & Information Systems Group, Syngenta Huddersfield. “Having worked with Siemens in the past, and given the company’s track record of reliable products and first-class support, we felt confident that the team would be able to work with our engineers to ensure the project was both a success and completed on deadline.”

Before implementing the migration, Siemens and Syngenta worked up a sequence of examples and prototypes before ordering any replacement parts to ensure that the system would be seamlessly

integrated. This was then developed into a workable strategy, which saw Siemens supply all parts of the new system, including hardware, system software and application software and to also provide the technical back-up and support following implementation.

Siemens’ DCS platform, PCS7, has migration platforms built in and, once operational, can help manufacturers achieve excellence in areas such as production uptime, reduced maintenance costs, improved plant security and enhanced plant flexibility for customers.

Offering enhanced alarm management, PCS7 also addresses a key challenge for customers, namely presenting a manageable amount of information to operators. The enhancements in the new system mean that intelligent alarm handling techniques can be developed in a cost-effective way. Furthermore, the

system is intuitive enough to be continually improved by the end user as process knowledge evolves. On the same theme of maximising uptime, Version 7 includes an innovative redundant ring topology for Profibus PA.

The benefits of PCS7 for Syngenta included increased system stability, remote support and improved plant visualisation. Another major benefit for Syngenta was the fact that a full production schedule was achieved immediately after the standard four week annual plant shutdown when the migration took place.

“The project was success mainly because of the hand-on help and advice we received from Siemens during the migration,” concluded Pearson. “Siemens’ technical expertise and superb product offering was invaluable throughout and ensured that we did not have to disrupt production or staff at all.”

Case study