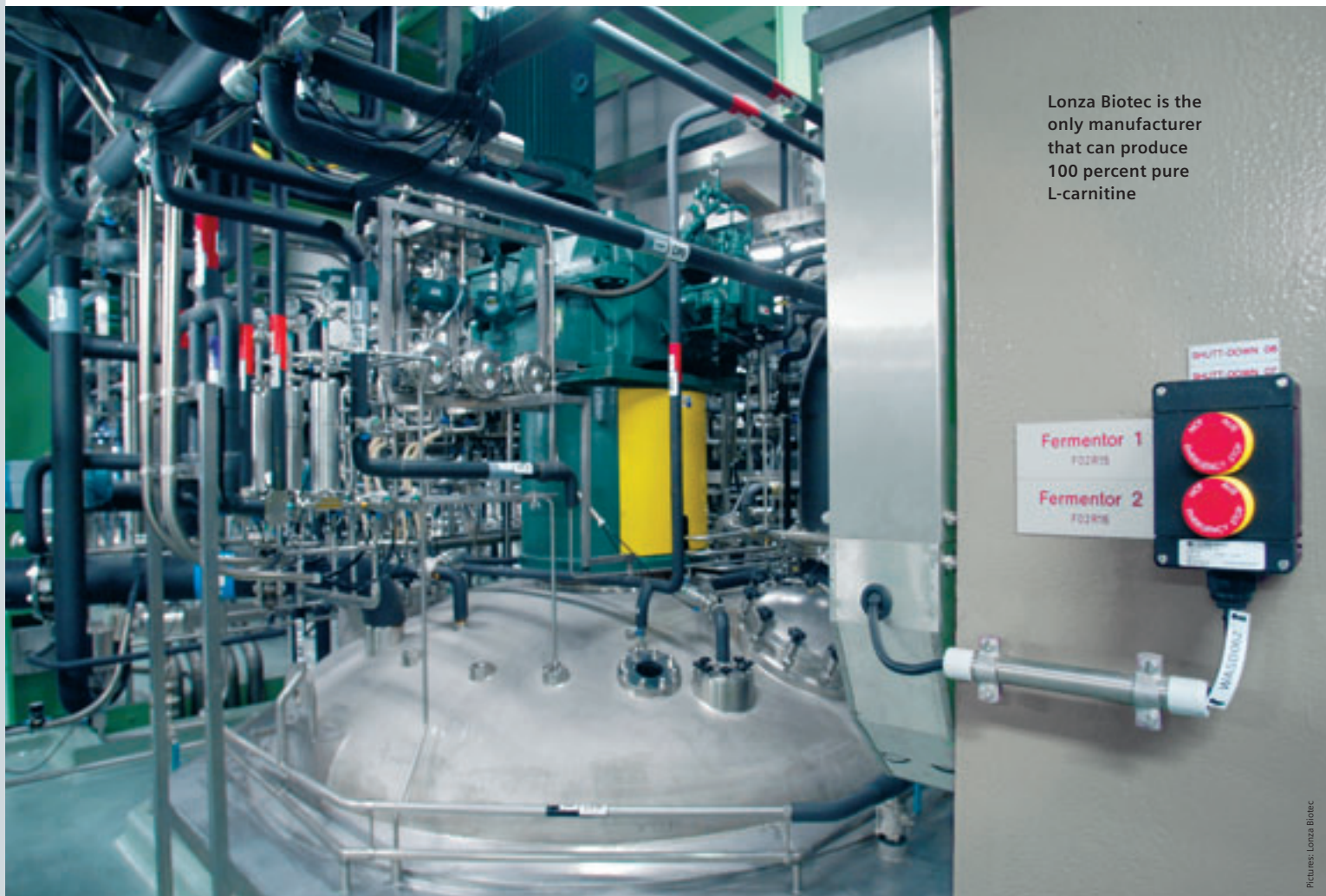


■ Lonza Biotec, Czech Republic

Sophisticated Solution

Rick Mommers, Business Development manager of Lonza Biotec, talks about the benefits of partnering with COMPAS Automatizace and Siemens on the proposal and installation of a new process control solution.



Lonza Biotec is the only manufacturer that can produce 100 percent pure L-carnitine

Mr. Mommers, why did you choose COMPAS Automatizace and Siemens for the implementation of an automation control system?

Rick Mommers: We thought long and hard about our decision – the tender lasted six months, over the course of which we visited many reference plants and tried to find out which company in the Czech Republic had the adequate know-how, experience, and technical backing to set up and maintain such sophisticated systems. Eventually, the Siemens-COMPAS combination turned out to be the best, and we have been collaborating for 13 years already. Our collaboration became more frequent, particularly in the last few years when we increased the automation level of our production processes in connection with the construction of a new hall. The systems had to comply with good manufacturing practices, such as the cGMP standard based on the rules of the supreme regulator of the pharmaceutical market, the US Food and Drug Administration.

How did the entire process of deploying the new technologies take place?

Rick Mommers: In the beginning, COMPAS played a major role, carrying out the first proposal using



Rick Mommers, Business Development manager of Lonza Biotec

Siemens technologies and starting the installation. With regard to the sophistication of the system – this was a pilot solution beyond anyone's experience, even on a global scale – we also turned directly to Siemens. Both companies collaborated in adapting the software to our conditions until all necessary functions were tuned and implemented.

How do you assess this collaboration?

Rick Mommers: The intense discussion with both companies prior to and over the course of the implementation of the new control system was very beneficial and resulted in a solution that exactly mirrors our needs and demands. After evaluating the several-year-long operation of this system, I would say that our collaboration has been very successful. The manufacturing process now runs according to our ideas, without difficulties or delays. Our operators are satisfied and they have learned to work with the system, which is reflected in the output. I am convinced that we could not have made a better choice in the Czech Republic.

What are the main benefits of the new system?

Rick Mommers: The new system is not only compliant with the standard of good manufacturing practices but is also fully automated. Moreover, the flexibility of this solution is very important for us – we often intervene in the production with adjustments of individual processes, and this technology enables us to carry out all of the changes quickly and flawlessly. The hardware offered this possibility from the beginning, but we had to adapt the software for some time. This revealed another advantage – the flexibility and expertise of COMPAS and Siemens' employees.

Mr. Mommers, thank you for taking the time to speak with us.

Simatic PCS 7 at Lonza

Lonza Biotec has collaborated with COMPAS Automatizace for several years and has used Simatic technology in its plants since 1994. In 2001, the company decided to implement its first process control system based on Simatic PCS 7 with Simatic Batch in a new production process for L-carnitine. Lonza is the only manufacturer that can produce 100 percent pure L-carnitine in a patented biological process.

Automating this process was one of the more complex projects COMPAS had executed at the time. The individual process steps require different control regimes – some steps are completely automatic, while others require manual intervention for specifying production parameters and responses to different production and system states. The automation system is a good example of an integrated solution, as Vlastimil Braun, director of COMPAS Automatizace, explains: "It is possible to access and modify all relevant data from one engineering station, not only the process control system data including specifications for a flexible batch control with 700 production steps, but also the parameters of the Siemens converters and HART sensors."

At present, the specialists of COMPAS Automatizace and Siemens are busy expanding the solution to accommodate a planned production capacity increase. This project will double the number of IOs, which currently stands at 6,000.

**info
contact**

www.siemens.com/pharmatucek.josef@siemens.com