DeltaV Product Information CD

Witco

DeltaV system's interoperability wins specialty chemical firm

Greenwich, Conn.-based Witco Corp. is a global manufacturer of oleochemicals and derivatives, polymer chemicals, organosilicones and other specialty chemicals.

In 1997, to fulfill its vision to become the world's preeminent specialty chemical company, Witco began a $600 million restructuring program to consolidate assets, improve business systems, modernize facilities and lay the foundation for future growth. The company's plan includes some 26 automation projects of varying size. Half of them are batch, half continuous. Because many Witco plants were purchased during an earlier diversification, controls were a hodge-podge of brands, ages, and capabilities.

To accomplish the fast-track automation program, Witco called on Fisher-Rosemount Systems for automation, controls, and supplementary engineering assistance. The company selected new and upgraded RS3, and the DeltaV process control systems. Notes Jim Cancelosi, manager for process control in Witco's corporate engineering department, both control systems rely entirely on native 32-bit Windows NT engineering and operator workstations, providing maximum convenience and performance for minimum money. "The control systems size out well for our wide range of automation projects--the largest of which is about 3,000 points, says Cancelosi, **"The DeltaV system's scalable aspects make it useful for the smallest to the largest systems and for those systems where we expect to see controls growth over time."**

Cancelosi says the new, highly graphical DCS applications with dynamic data exchange (DDE) are versatile, easy and fast to use, integrating seamlessly with other NT-compatible software. "Being able to use third party applications is a tremendous advance in the automation industry," he notes, "The new DCS engineering and operator applications can also readily communicate with the outside world."

Witco plans to install an SAP enterprise system companywide and plans to integrate control systems in the future to vertically link all company functions. "Use of NT enterprise server at the control system level to collect, format and interchange data should allow us to streamline the SAP-to-controls link and protect the control system at the same time," says Cancelosi.

Notes Cancelosi, "Upgrading off-the-shelf workstations and monitors in the future should be a snap. Open workstations are the way the automation industry is going. The days of proprietary closed consoles seem over. Our operators and maintenance people are almost universally familiar with Windows, either from other plant experience or at home. They like it, pick it up quickly, and don't fight it, Just about any information the operators or maintenance staff wants, or any action they want to take, is only one click away."

"We're also happy to be able to configure off-line at our desks," says Cancelosi, He adds that graphical configuration incorporating the familiar Windows look and feel is definitely superior to the old forms-based methods. Drag-and -drop editing and drop-down contextual help, menus, and tags make things go fast. A built-in configuration assistant guided the engineers in the beginning; no formal training was necessary.

The Windows configuration allows Witco plant people to make process changes, usually without calling on Cancelosi's corporate engineering staff. "But if they want to call us," he says, "we're adding a PC here loaded with RS3, DeltaV, and dial-up software. In the past we had to visit a plant to provide such help, which was very costly."

For the near future, says Cancelosi, plants are looking at automating quality assurance and tying the new control networks into their labs and other areas. Windows NT and Ethernet

networks provide the infrastructure for such performance-enhancing efforts with little added investment.