



DeltaV Product Information CD

SUCCESS STORIES

Austin Utilities

Austin Utilities controls power plant with powerful, expandable PlantWeb field-based architecture

It recently took only a few short weeks to transform the 30-megawatt Austin Utilities power plant in Austin, Minnesota, from an antiquated facility into a model of efficiency for small-to-medium-sized power stations. A new process automation solution using PlantWeb field-based architecture from Fisher-Rosemount incorporating the latest intelligent field instrumentation and leading edge process management technologies made the difference.

Exterior Photo

James French, project coordinator for the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, which operates the plant, said, "The scalable technology we selected meets current needs with minimum costs, and it can be expanded economically in the future. Reduced installation and commissioning costs were an added bonus." As part of the PlantWeb solution, all old pneumatic instrumentation and single-loop boiler controls in the plant were replaced with approximately 200 new intelligent pressure and temperature transmitters, FIELDVUE digital valve controllers, and other advanced field devices from Rosemount and Fisher Controls.

A DeltaV automation system with integrated Asset Management Solutions software was installed in a totally revamped control room. The new system accommodates digital signals to and from 74 FOUNDATION fieldbus-compliant instruments, as well as communications with other instrumentation using the HART protocol. The PlantWeb architecture and fieldbus technology contributed significant savings during construction and helped get the plant on line faster. Substantial savings were realized, for example, in reduced labor for wiring.

Interior Photo

"Reduced engineering time and material savings further enhanced the total financial benefit of utilizing this technology," French stated. "Since a good deal of loop checkout and instrument configuration was done directly from the control room, startup was smoother and faster," French said. "We're now seeing greater operating efficiency with fewer control problems. Personnel no longer have to go out into the plant to check on operating parameters; it's all right there in front of them. The added information generated by the smart field instrumentation produces an accurate, historic record that wasn't possible previously." The entire project was engineered and managed by Novaspect Inc., the local Fisher-Rosemount representative.

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