

Case Study

HollyFrontier Knows How to Compete in Today's Marketplace



“Automation allows us to keep up and compete with larger refineries and still turn out a safe and effective product — doing it well and within cost constraints.”

- Keith Bourgeois, Woods Cross Refinery, HollyFrontier

Background

HollyFrontier is among the largest independent petroleum refiners in the United States with operations throughout the mid-continent, southwestern and Rocky Mountain regions.

Subsidiaries of HollyFrontier Corporation produce and market gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, asphalt, heavy products and specialty lubricant products.

Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, the company operates five complex refineries with 443,000 barrels per day of crude oil processing capacity. Subsidiaries of HollyFrontier Corporation manufacture and market lubricants and specialty products through a subsidiary.



The Woods Cross Refinery is located north of Salt Lake City, Utah, and has a crude oil capacity of 31,000 barrels per day.

HollyFrontier's Woods Cross Refinery, located north of Salt Lake City, Utah, is a high-conversion refinery that has advantaged access to regional sweet and black wax crudes as well as pipeline access to Canadian crude oils. Woods Cross refined products are marketed primarily in Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, and eastern Washington.

Benefits

Since this upgrade effort is in progress, over a significant timeframe, benefits can be stated in terms of expectations. The installation and implementation will provide the foundation for several capabilities, including alarm management, alarm reinforcement, and improved control performance monitoring. Additional benefits in the areas of graphics, training and simulation are also highlighted.

Challenge

“As a small refinery, relatively speaking, the problem with automation is being able to keep up and compete with larger refineries and their staffs, and still turn out a safe and effective product — doing it well and within cost constraints,” said Keith Bourgeois, veteran automation system expert at the Woods Cross Refinery.

Bourgeois further commented that Honeywell legacy systems have been very reliable and dependable over the years. One difficulty is getting management to understand the need to upgrade. The key, then, is helping everyone to understand the advantages of upgrading.

Solution

Bourgeois explained the attraction to upgrading to the Experion® Process Knowledge System (PKS) lies in the well thought-out approach that enables the site to receive benefits from previous work while continuing to make improvements using modern tools.

In a previous case study, HollyFrontier discussed the advantages of Honeywell's Solution Enhancement Support Program (SESP) for cost-effective upgrades.

Results

"Now, HollyFrontier is looking at making major modifications to increase production, plus looking into a lubrication plant. If those actions take place, that would be a profitable asset and provide opportunities for the community and employees for years to come," said Bourgeois.

As a small refinery, Woods Cross has focused on the things over which they have control and the resources to address. The site has worked with Honeywell experts for techniques and expertise in maintaining their system.

"It is great to realize that, over the years, Honeywell has consistently supported their customers and provided solutions," said Bourgeois.

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About Honeywell Upgrades

Honeywell Upgrades include technology upgrades and refresh solutions for human machine interfaces (HMI), TDC2000 Data Hiway and TPN/TDC 3000 Controllers. Honeywell provides a host of upgrade solutions to users to migrate to the latest technology in phases, without having to replace the entire setup of installed equipment in one go.

For More Information

Learn more about Honeywell's products and services, visit our website www.honeywellprocess.com or contact your Honeywell account manager.

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