Success Story

TIGF Improves Security and Productivity with Experion SCADA

“The Honeywell team was able to comprehend the dynamic challenges of our project and our unique needs as a high-threshold gas storage site. In addition we had a great team effort with our internal people and our subcontractor SECA. With everyone’s help we were able to make this all come together and make this project a success.”

Philippe Lafitte, Project Manager, TIGF

Benefits
A leading provider of natural gas storage and transportation services in Europe, TIGF wanted to upgrade to the latest control system technology at its gas storage facility in Lussagnet, France. The company was looking to replace obsolete hardware, improve security and gain a sound backup strategy.

TIGF chose Honeywell’s Experion® Process Knowledge System (PKS) for the Lussagnet upgrade and worked with local subcontractor SECA to help implement the system. A longtime Honeywell customer, TIGF was familiar with Honeywell products, services and support.

Using Experion PKS helps TIGF attain higher productivity and profitability along with a reliable backup solution. Experion transforms process control beyond traditional distributed control system (DCS) functionality by unifying people with process variables, business requirements and asset management.

TIGF’s Honeywell Experion solution is a SCADA system based on six redundant servers. The migration has provided many benefits to Lussagnet, including:

- Replaced obsolete hardware and an operating system that was at the end of its support term
- Met short time requirement for migration, including the entire system replacement in one day
- Improved supply, installation and commissioning of hardware, software, documentation, training and support services
- Added custom security policies commanded by TIGF
- Fully integrated automation solution connecting multiple solutions and technology seamlessly

Background
TIGF was created in 2005 as a merger of two companies to serve the European energy markets. A 100 percent subsidiary of the Total Group, TIGF has 50 years of experience in the gas transport and storage industry, providing services to European gas suppliers.

The Lussagnet storage site was put into operation in 1957 to carry out modulation of natural gas production. While the demand for natural gas continued to grow, the Lussagnet site saw its storage capacities increase fourfold since its creation. In the face of a gas market that is opening to competition and the increase in European gas consumption, improvements planned for Lussagnet set the company up for quick response to increasing requirements for storage capacity and participation in the creation of a major gas junction – the South European hub.
Challenge
TIGF was looking to replace its Dell hardware and migrate the operating system that was at the end of its support. The company wanted a real-time overview of the gas network, and needed more security and a reliable backup strategy. Additionally, the company had a demanding timeframe for the migration, including a final system replacement completed in one day.

TIGF sought a partner that could manage the overall migration process, minimizing the workload for internal staff so they could focus on their jobs of running the facility.

“We wanted a solution provider that would reliably manage the details of our upgrade so that our staff could supervise the project monthly, rather than having a dedicated, full-time engineering team to manage the project,” said Philippe LaFitte, Project Manager for TIGF Lussagnet. “TIGF trusted Honeywell’s expertise to deliver.”

Solution
TIGF has used Honeywell SCADA since 1998 and was very satisfied with the solution, support and services. Because of the solid relationship and proven technology expertise, the company never opened the project up to competition and chose Experion PKS for its control upgrade along with the Honeywell Solution Enhancement Support Program (SESP).

The TIGF Experion system is a SCADA system based on six redundant servers connected by a DSA and containing about 18,000 points. Twenty Flex stations are used to control the plant and a redundant wall screen with HMIWeb used to provide a real-time overview of the gas network. Many OPC connections exist, and the Experion system is on top of different PLCs, including Rockwell, Siemens and ICS Triplex.

The project began in January 2010 with the build of the servers and stations and all data was migrated. Then the new security solution with two domain controller servers and the backup strategy with one Experion Backup and Restore server were deployed. All applications were tested and HMI and DSP schematics were migrated.

In May, the new system was installed and running in parallel with the existing system. Supplementary tests were run, and everything was on target, so control of the plant was transferred to the new Experion R311 system on time on June 1, keeping a continuous view of the process.

The Honeywell site service engineer took the lead on the entire migration process. The major benefit to TIGF is that the project was less taxing on its staff. They could simply supervise monthly without the need for a dedicated full-time engineering team.

In addition, although not part of the original project scope, Honeywell’s team was asked by the TIGF IT services team to implement cyber security measures on the servers and was able to readily accommodate the need.

“The Honeywell team was able to comprehend the dynamic challenges of our project and our unique needs as a high-threshold gas storage site,” said LaFitte. “The team’s professionalism, motivation, listening skills and technical abilities made our project a success.”

Experion unifies TIGF’s assets, processes and people to improve business agility. Its unified architecture with embedded application technologies collects and integrates process and business data across the entire facility. Making process knowledge available where and when it is needed improves process performance, asset and people effectiveness, and business agility. The secure, open technology is built to scale and helps manage everything from optimized yield to reduced maintenance costs.

More Information
For more information on Honeywell solutions, visit www.honeywell.com/ps or contact your Honeywell account manager.

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