

Case Study

Lifecycle Management Enables Success with PRALCA Modernization Project



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- Freddy Ortega, Superintendent Engineer, PRALCA

Background

PRALCA Productora de Alcoholes Hidratados, C.A., located in Santa Rita, State of Zulia, Venezuela, produces ethylene oxide and ethylene glycol for sale to Venezuelan industry and international markets. The plant is situated on the eastern shore of Lake Maracaibo.



Benefits

- Experion **PKS transforms process control beyond traditional DCS functionality** by unifying people with process variables, business objectives and asset management strategies. It provides PRALCA’s plant personnel with **online access to a wide range of documentation** on the production process. New operator stations enable better utilization of process trending with a single keyboard.
- The Experion solution **improved operator effectiveness** by upgrading legacy DCS operator stations to the latest HMI without additional training and maintenance requirements.
- Experion **PKS incorporates Honeywell’s advanced HMIWeb operator interface** employing standard Internet technologies, allowing open and direct integration of process, application and business information.
- Honeywell’s Lifecycle Management (LCM) program made the transition cost-effective and manageable.

Challenge

A legacy Honeywell TDC 3000 Distributed Control System (DCS) originally controlled the PRALCA operation. The need to implement advanced control strategies to improve plant efficiency, as well as spare parts considerations with the aging DCS, prompted the plant’s migration to Honeywell’s Experion® Process Knowledge System (PKS).

“Our goal was to improve the technology in our plant, where our processes have a significant level of risk and danger potential. Through the years, our technology was becoming obsolete. With Honeywell, we had the opportunity to move to new technology in a way that would help us with the transition. That’s why we went with Lifecycle Management,” said Freddy Ortega.

Solution

Leading control system suppliers have responded to current business demands by offering a variety of options to keep plants updated on the latest technology while safeguarding existing investments. The goal is to enable automation upgrades without replacement of the entire control system platform. This extends the life expectancy of installed assets and positions the facility for future growth.

PRALCA’s control system modernization was made possible by Honeywell’s Lifecycle Management (LCM) program. LCM is a multi-year service agreement that guarantees asset support for Honeywell hardware and software products until they are modernized or retired. The basis for these activities is the customer’s site strategy—not Honeywell’s product introduction and withdrawal timetable. LCM bundles site support services into a single, cost-effective solution that ensures users achieve their asset management goals without having to renegotiate multiple service contracts every year.

Results

Started in 2005, PRALCA's five-year LCM agreement responds to changing needs by combining a variety of comprehensive Honeywell site support services, including Parts Management, Solution Enhancement Support Program (SESP), Migration/Upgrade Kits and Maintenance Services.

"Having the opportunity to work with Honeywell has given us the chance to work as a team. When there are changes, the operators, people in general, resist change. But, we have worked together with the employees and have come to an understanding with them that we can now work with new technology and it can work for us," commented Ortega.

Future

The upgrading work continues with migration of third party Emergency shut down (ESD) to Honeywell Safety Manager (SM), implementation of Advanced Alarm Management Program, integrating the Fire Alarm System and the Experion system update using Life Cycle Management Strategy.

About Lifecycle Management

Lifecycle Management (LCM) is a multi-year service agreement that provides system support for Honeywell hardware and software until they are upgraded or retired, based on the customer's site strategy. An LCM agreement establishes a committed automation roadmap, leading to an upgraded system during the term of the contract. An LCM agreement can include a full spectrum of services, including software upgrades, parts management and hardware refresh, all within a flexible service package. LCM allows customers to start down the path to modernization and get there incrementally based on budget, needs and schedule.

For More Information

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

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