



UPGRADE OF AN OBSOLETE CONTROLS SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE DURING A SHORT SHUTDOWN WINDOW

ABOUT THE CLIENT

One of the world's largest global pharmaceutical companies known for their leadership in pharmaceutical research, development, manufacturing and marketing of pharmaceutical products, reached out to EAD to support the upgrade of their controls systems infrastructure.

PROBLEM TO SOLVE

The client's existing operating control system was a legacy Allen-Bradley (A-B) PLC-5® and an obsolete PanelView®. Our client wanted to migrate to the Rockwell (A-B) ControlLogix platform using the latest Studio 5000® version and a recent version of FactoryTalk ME®. Because the existing system was obsolete, our client found it difficult to continue to support and maintain their system.

INDUSTRY

Life Sciences

SERVICES

Controls & Automation



SCOPE OF WORK

EAD was already familiar with the plant's operations from previous services performed at the client site. To ensure EAD understood all the needs, we conducted a site visit early in the project to help clarify and finalize the new functionality required. The EAD team worked with site operations and quality resources to develop system development lifecycle documents, which identified key elements for the client's Management of Change documentation. In weekly meetings with the client, EAD delivered a detailed outline of the shutdown activity, which needed to be carefully coordinated with the other simultaneous shutdown activities (not performed by EAD) that were happening at the site under an extremely short shutdown window.

After a complete analysis and review of the situation, EAD provided the hardware and services, migrating the existing PLC functionality to a new processor. We also incorporated new functionality into the system based on the client's needs. We added additional WFI tank filling logic, alarm improvements, conductivity inputs, operational enhancements and made it possible to lockout users if the system demand was at capacity.

RESULT

EAD delivered the new equipment, software and the required GMP documentation per our client's requirements. EAD migrated the obsolete control system to the most recent version that the platform offered. EAD successfully migrated the existing code, added the new functionality and provided the software testing protocol to qualify the new system. The solution was delivered on time and within budget and the client was extremely satisfied with EAD's solution. The client now has a modern control system with additional functionality that helps their operations team work faster with greater consistency.

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