

Gerresheimer Glasspackaging - "Four 4" A story of optimum TCO.

Industry: Glass

Product Category: CENTUM CS

Gerresheimer Glasspackaging is part of the German Gerresheimer group and produces high quality glass bottles for cosmetics & perfumes.

In 1995, Gerresheimer Glasspackaging installed their first Yokogawa DCS for controlling the "Four 5" furnace. Yokogawa's "CENTUM CS" system (Unix-based) was chosen for "Four 5" as a supervisory DCS communicating with the PLC subsystems installed by German contractor SORG.

During the next years, the CENTUM CS system was running smoothly and without a single failure !

Due to a changing market, however, the production at "Four 5" was stopped in 2001 for economical reasons. Gerresheimer Glasspackaging then decided to built a completely new furnace "Four 4" for Opal glass production.

Meanwhile, Yokogawa had released their new CENTUM CS3000 system (Windows -based), and therefore it was possible for Yokogawa to propose 2 equally valid alternatives for the new furnace.

One alternative involved the hardware migration of the existing controllers and operator stations towards the new CENTUM CS3000 platform, the other alternative consisted in a complete re-usage of the "old" CENTUM CS.

It is Yokogawa's company policy to provide stable & long-term availability for their complete product range. For DCS systems, Yokogawa typically provides 10 years of support AFTER the "End of Sales" is announced. Although the Unix-based CENTUM CS was released 10 years ago, the "End of Sales" is not yet in sight.

This long-life support commitment from Yokogawa facilitated Gerresheimer Glasspackaging's decision to choose the "re-usage" alternative. This alternative only required a small investment for the re-configuration (engineering) of the new furnace. This re-configuration was successfully executed in a very short time-frame by Yokogawa Belgium.

With this choice, the initial investment done by Gerresheimer Glasspackaging in 1995 will keep giving return even for the years to come. A typical example of extremely low TCO (Total Cost of Ownership) achieved with a Yokogawa product.

Quality, Innovation and Foresight are Yokogawa's core values as promoted in our Vigilance campaign. Low TCO is one of the benefits resulting for our customers ...

