Chemical Industry Solutions

Yokogawa’s Vigilant Plant solutions deliver visibility, predictability and agility for your chemical business

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Your Partner in Chemical Manufacturing

Being a producer in the chemical industry has become more and more challenging over the years. Customer needs for products, pricing, and delivery are more demanding and material requirements have become complex and ever-changing. Additionally, compliance in environment health, safety and security have always been primary requirements to do business.

Throughout the years, Yokogawa has partnered with many chemical companies to provide technology solutions that help overcome these challenges. We are ready to partner with you to meet your challenges and help you achieve them profitably and safely.

Yokogawa, is dedicated to developing the most advanced control and instrumentation products and systems in the world. Today, Yokogawa is a leader in the fields of measurement, control, and information. As a global solution provider, Yokogawa works with customers to anticipate current and futures requirements, continually tackling new challenges and providing the best control and information solutions in the world.

Yokogawa’s commitment to innovation is reflected in our extraordinary investments in research & development, which ensure development of the most advanced products and services.

Long-term business success needs a long-term strategy. A long-term partnership with Yokogawa will help provide the highest total value of ownership for automation and plant information solutions.

Table of Contents

4 Bulk Chemicals
6 Specialty and Fine Chemical
8 Utilities
10 How can Yokogawa help you achieve long-term business success?
13 Production Excellence
14 Engineering Centers
Whether you produce Petrochemicals, Inorganics or Intermediates, you are under constant cost and margin pressure to deliver products to your customer in a timely and efficient manner while maintaining safe and compliant operations. Additionally, you need to adjust to constant feedstock and energy prices and be able to provide the most profitable product mix to the market.

Yokogawa has been serving the bulk chemical market globally and is the recognized leader in this market. With products, solutions, and industry expertise, Yokogawa understands your market and production needs and will work with you to provide a reliable, and cost-effective solution through the lifecycle of your plant.

Yokogawa’s engineers were all very patient and cooperative during the early engineering and start-up phases. We worked as one team through to the completion of this plant project,” said Sayan Saesue, TaLa’s Engineering and Maintenance Division Manager.

Rapid Implementation of Integrated CENTUM DCS and ProSafe-RS Systems at New Oleochemical Plant

In response to rising demand in Thailand for oleochemicals, which are environmentally friendly biodegradable substances used in applications such as fuels and personal care products, Thai Oleochemicals Co., Ltd. (TaLa) has recently completed the construction of a new oleochemical production facility. The new plant is located at the Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate in Rayong, Thailand, which is 160 km southeast of Bangkok, and is capable of annually producing 100,000 tons of fatty alcohol, 200,000 tons of methyl ester (ME), and 31,000 tons of glycerine from crude palm oil. The ME produced at this plant is blended with petroleum diesel to create biodiesel, a biodegradable and clean-burning fuel that has the same combustion properties as conventional petroleum diesel fuel. To ensure that the new plant would operate reliably and safely, TaLa relied on a solution from Yokogawa based on the CENTUM DCS Integrated Production Control System and the ProSafe-RS Safety Instrumented System.

The Challenges and the Solutions

Multiple licensors and consultants were involved in this project, so a key issue was maintaining consistency in the information and specifications handled during the engineering stage. From the beginning of this project to the completion of the plant startup phase, Yokogawa’s engineers worked with everyone on the project team to ensure a successful conclusion.

Only four months were allocated for hardware installation and plant start-up. Within this tight timeframe, the CENTUM DCS and ProSafe-RS system hardware had to be installed in the plant’s control and rack rooms and their functions checked. Transmitters were also installed and loop checks were performed. Many software changes had to be accommodated quickly and flexibly. All this work was performed within specifications and on schedule.

Plant safety and efficiency also had to be maintained by automating plant operations to the maximum possible extent. To accomplish this objective, the ProSafe-RS and CENTUM DCS systems were fully integrated. The combination of feedback and sequence control with the graphic display of trend data, alarm summaries, operator guide messages, and other information have greatly enhanced operations at this plant. The highly reliable CENTUM DCS system has also helped TaLa maintain high productivity at this facility.

Finally, as TaLa only has a few DCS engineers who are available to work on these systems at short notice, the company relies on support provided by personnel from Yokogawa’s Rayong service office. Its 24/7/365 support is very much appreciated by TaLa.
Producers in the specialty and fine chemical market face many challenges. Research driven innovation and the rapid introduction to market of products to meet your customer’s needs is the key to profitability. Additionally, you must also be looking into the future to meet the requirements for products and solutions for your customers tomorrow.

Yokogawa has long served customers in the specialty and fine chemicals market. With a market leading batch solution that offers the best in class reliability and flexibility as well as industry experts who understand the complex requirements in designing a batch solution, you can be assured that in your partnership with Yokogawa you will have a system that will enable you to produce products that meet your customers’ needs in the future while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance.

Success Story
CENTUM VP Batch Replaces Legacy System and Improves Production Efficiency at Acrylic Plant

Lucite International is the world’s largest producer of acrylic monomers, and the company’s plant in Darwen, England produces high quality acrylics for use primarily in bathroom and kitchen fittings. The plant formerly relied on a Honeywell PlantScape Batch control system that ran on Windows NT4 servers. Due to the difficulties of maintaining this legacy system, Lucite opted for its replacement. Through this change, the company aimed to achieve continuous improvements in the areas of plant safety, worker health, environmental protection, and cost performance. Toward this end, Lucite evaluated the system reliability, lifetime support, and engineering capability of various control system vendors and decided on a Yokogawa CENTUM VP solution. Yokogawa United Kingdom successfully installed this system within a short period of time.

1. Project execution
Due to the age and condition of the legacy system, the project team could not find the existing system configuration and detailed specifications by proper documentations. However, by working through the system one section at a time, Yokogawa and Lucite engineers were able to collect all of the configuration data and transfer it to CENTUM VP. This approach allowed Yokogawa to develop an excellent relationship with the Lucite project team and gave Lucite confidence in Yokogawa’s capabilities as a solution provider. As a result of careful planning and preparation, the project team was able - during a short 14-day plant shutdown period in September 2008 - to remove the PlantScape system and install, start up, and commission the new CENTUM VP system.

2. Efficient batch operations
The overall competency of Yokogawa’s engineering team, particularly in the area of batch applications, was well appreciated by the Lucite project team. The CENTUM VP Batch package can handle everything from recipe management to batch report handling and unit management. Its capabilities are superior to those of the system that it replaced, and it is much easier for the Lucite engineers to use, ensuring error-free batch operations. The package has a function that shows the operation procedure, current step, and current phase during normal operations, ensuring very high production efficiency and safe operation. In addition, the ergonomic design of the CENTUM VP human machine interface (HIS) helps improve operation efficiency. Lucite is very happy with the high reliability, availability, and flexibility of the CENTUM VP system, and has experienced no major system failures since this system was started up.
Success Story
Yokogawa revitalizes compressor control system in a Polypropylene resin plant

This compressor control upgrade project for a Polypropylene resin plant operated by Safripol in Sasolburg, South Africa, is a showcase of Safripol and Yokogawa’s integrated control philosophy. Here, a single control room concept was followed in the integration of an existing Yokogawa CENTUM CS (DCS) for core process control with a fast STARDOM Network-based Control System (NCS) for high-speed compressor control.

According to Mike Dukas, a process control engineer at this plant, “Making use of Yokogawa’s different control platforms having unique specifications but the same well known ‘look and feel’ operator interfaces allows us to avoid extensive operator training, yet provides both the right control philosophy on the plant floor and makes use of the existing management information software tools.”

Through this project, Safripol achieved:
- A single ‘look and feel’ operator interface for the DCS and NCS
- A fast and controllable integration cycle
- A high speed hybrid compressor control solution
- A reduced OPEX for the compressor operation by replacing old and obsolete PLCs with a modern hybrid control platform.

The challenges and the solutions
One of the objectives of Safripol was to avoid operator interference as much as possible in order to reduce costs and guarantee that processing could continue undisturbed after switchover. By making use of a STARDOM hybrid controller, a single ‘look and feel’ operator interface could be established, enabling the continued use of the DCS software and hardware while maintaining the PLCs’ high-speed process response.

The second challenge faced was the criticality of the compressors in the process. Stopping the compressors meant losing money. A tight changeover schedule and accurate pre-testing was essential.

“The changeover was virtually bumpless. Besides the planned mini-shutdown time, we did not experience any additional downtime.

The first controller has been running now for over a year without any problems,” Mr. Dukas explained. “The first STARDOM unit was installed with the help of Yokogawa South Africa and, due to time pressure, was done without official training. Programming the controller was done with remote assistance from Yokogawa SCE in the Netherlands and Japan. The changeover took place without any failures or plant delays and was well within the planned time and budgets. More units will be placed during the course of 2006, eventually replacing all existing compressor control systems with Yokogawa’s STARDOM.”

The third objective was to make sure the new compressor control system was easy to program and maintain. This allows future expansions and modifications as well as the installation of additional units. According to Bennie Coetzer, a process control engineer at the polymerization plant, “The old saying still applies; you cannot control what you cannot measure. But to get all these signals to and from the DCS using old technology, cabling, and junction boxes costs a lot of money. We decided to keep costs down by using modern technology that met all our requirements. A lot of options and product combinations were evaluated and STARDOM with Ethernet communication came out to be the best for our business,” said Mr. Ducas.
Achieve long-term business success

“Reliability and maintainability” of automation systems maximizes plant availability

One of the most fundamental and often overlooked factors for maximizing revenue is the reliability and maintainability of automation systems. Utmost system availability is a key prerequisite for petrochemical plants.

“Plant-wide automation” enhances agility and flexibility of chemical production

Yokogawa is an automation supplier with extensive hands-on understanding of the usage of information for complex and varied chemical production processes. Yokogawa is a premier supplier of integrated plant-wide automation solutions that delivers agility and flexibility to the petrochemical production workflow.

“Production efficiency improvement” increases profitability and enhances health, safety and environment “Lifetime partnership” maximizes total value of ownership

Chemical Industry needs are extremely diversified. To come out ahead in today’s highly competitive marketplace, chemical companies are striving for quality and productivity improvements. At the same time, they share a greater commitment to addressing HSE issues. Yokogawa provides tailor-made solutions to these needs based on its long and wide-ranging experience in this field.

“Lifetime partnership” maximizes total value of ownership

Yokogawa is a premier supplier of integrated plant-wide automation solutions that delivers agility and flexibility to the chemical production workflow. Long-term business success needs a long-term strategy. A long term partnership with Yokogawa will help provide the highest total value of ownership for automation solutions.
Production Excellence

Production Management

MES integration
A variety of integrated systems that perform scheduling, and other functions are necessary for production excellence. A true system integration (MES) ensures that all aspects of the production process are aligned.

Workflow standardization
Production workflows should be allowed to adapt to changes, and systems should be scaled without causing production delays. The standardization of workflows is especially effective at companies with multiple production sites.

Real-time production management
Ongoing real-time production management is essential to keep up the production plan. The Check Action (CAOP) system is vital.

Production Control

Loop tuning
PID control plays a fundamental role in process control. Proper tuning is essential for trouble-free production control and is a prerequisite for advanced level control.

Advanced automation
Advanced process control and knowledge-based optimization systems can improve efficiency and reliability in automated operations.

Real-time optimization
Real-time optimization can be accelerated with real-time optimization using dynamic model calculations.

Production Monitoring

Alarm rationalization
An approach to alarm management involves the use of a new Engineering Economic Association (ETMA) alarm guideline. Alarm data analysis is often an effective approach to successful alarm rationalization.

KPI monitoring
A mix of operational indicators and KPIs for overall production performance is used. KPIs are used in the production process to review and track deviations.

Production navigation
Process planning to manage strategy and execution is a key component of the production plan. The Check Action (CAOP) system is used.

Production Environment

Operator training
Operator training systems allow operators to gain experience in performing their duties, including as-alloomed instructions and interpreting real-time data from the production operations. It helps operators upgrade their skills.

Control room design
Control room design needs to take into consideration all aspects of the work environment, including ergonomics, functionality, automation of systems, and business policy.

Resource optimization
A central control room is essential for overseeing the entire production environment. At production control units, the optimization of human resources and other activities can be considered to achieve production excellence.
Locations

Worldwide Business Operations

North America
- Newnan, GA
- Sugar Land, TX
- Calgary, CA

Europe
- Amersfoort, The Netherlands
- Zaventem, Belgium
- Wien, Austria
- Madrid, Spain
- Villézy, Villacoublay Cedex, France
- Ratingen, Germany
- Runcorn, United Kingdom
- Milano, Italy

South America
- Tamboré - Barueri
- Santiago
- Bogotá
- Buenos Aires

Asia
- Singapore
- India
- Malaysia
- Thailand
- Indonesia
- Philippines
- Australia
- Taiwan
- Vietnam

Korea
- Seoul
- Bupyeong

China
- IXi'an
- Shanghai

Japan
- Central Engineering Center

Middle East and Africa
- Bahrain
- Saudi Arabia
- Abu-Dhabi
- Dubai
- Johannesburg

Russia
- Moscow

South America
- Yokogawa de Mexico (Mexico City)

North America
- Yokogawa Corporation of America Headquarters (Newnan, GA, USA)
- Yokogawa Europe (Amersfoort, The Netherlands)
- Yokogawa Deutschland (Wien, Austria)
- Yokogawa Russia (Moscow)
- Yokogawa Middle East (Bahrain)
- Yokogawa Engineering Asia (Singapore)
- Yokogawa China (China)
- Yokogawa Electric Korea (Seoul)

Europe
- Yokogawa Deutschland (Germany)
- Yokogawa Europe (Netherlands)
- Yokogawa Russia (Moscow)
- Yokogawa Middle East (Bahrain)
- Yokogawa Middle East (Bahrain)
- Yokogawa Engineering Asia (Singapore)
- Yokogawa China (China)
- Yokogawa Electric Korea (Seoul)

Yokogawa World Headquarters (Tokyo, Japan)

Yokogawa Corporation of America Headquarters (Newnan, GA, USA)

Yokogawa de Mexico (Mexico City)

Yokogawa Canada (Calgary)

Yokogawa Middle East (Bahrain)

Global Network Supporting Business Growth

Engineering Centers
Yokogawa’s global commitment to the Chemical Industry

Yokogawa is the world leader in automation solutions to the chemical industry. As a global player, we have strong local support in any region that you run your business. With global centers of excellence, automation and process engineers, consultants, and automation project managers, you can count on us to help you with any application in the chemical industry.

VigilantPlant is Yokogawa’s automation concept for safe, reliable, and profitable plant operations. VigilantPlant aims to enable an ongoing state of Operational Excellence where plant personnel are watchful and attentive, well-informed, and ready to take actions that optimize plant and business performance.