

DeltaV™ System, PlantWeb™ Architecture: Process Control and Information Management Prescription for SmithKline Beecham

RESULTS

- Reduced product-to-market time
- Reduced product introduction project cost
- Reduced industry documentation compliance cost
- 50% reduced instrument installation time
- Reduced maintenance cost
- Reduced instrument commissioning time



APPLICATION

Batch processes, pharmaceutical production

CUSTOMER

SmithKline Beecham, plc, Irvine, Scotland

CHALLENGE

SmithKline Beecham must comply with the rigorous requirements of governmental agencies regulating the manufacture of pharmaceuticals. A key element of the company's compliance program is the accurate documentation of process instrument calibration and maintenance.

SOLUTION

SmithKline Beecham, plc initiated the PlantWeb™ field-based process automation architecture at its Irvine, Scotland pharmaceutical production facility to help reduce the time-to-market of new products through faster execution of new product projects.

SmithKline Beecham automation team leader Ian Allan notes that reducing instrument installation time by as much as 50% has a positive impact on both project schedules and costs. Establishing a predictive maintenance environment, Allan says, is another cost-saving aspect of the new architecture.

Benefits that meet industry regulations

These and other benefits result from several time- and money-saving features of the DeltaV™ digital automation system and the open, field-based architecture, including faster commissioning of instruments, more efficient maintenance practices, and calibration



For more information:
www.EmersonProcess.com/DeltaV

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Ian Allan

Automation Team Leader, SmithKline Beecham



procedures that more efficiently meet specific pharmaceutical industry documentation requirements.

These last two features are extremely important in helping SmithKline Beecham comply with the rigorous requirements of governmental agencies regulating the manufacture of pharmaceuticals. Allan says that because SmithKline Beecham can automatically record these activities through PlantWeb architecture, it eliminates time-consuming report writing by hand and the unavoidable human errors. “We see an opportunity to go beyond compliance with the techniques afforded by the PlantWeb architecture, and we can concentrate on our core business—making pharmaceutical products,” Allan says.

A technological leader

SmithKline Beecham recognizes open, field-based architecture as the future of process control and information management in the pharmaceutical industry.

Plant managers at the Irvine facility recognized the need to capture and utilize the large amounts of data generated by smart instrumentation installed throughout the plants. The potential for accurate documentation of a wide range of production and maintenance activities was sufficient justification to implement the new system and architecture. Additionally, scalability was another positive factor. The PlantWeb architecture, centered on the DeltaV system, is modular by nature, allowing a plant to start on a small scale and add functions later.

For these and other reasons, Allan says it’s an exciting time to be working with these leading edge advances in process control and information management, and the future is also inviting.

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