

# Solvay gained a 10% - 15% increase in maintenance productivity with AMS<sup>®</sup> Suite: Intelligent Device Manager



## RESULTS

- 10 - 15% increase in maintenance productivity
- 20% increase in the number of complex instruments managed, without increasing staff
- Instrument database created in less than one day



## APPLICATION

Management of a plant's instrumentation assets.

## CUSTOMER

Solvay Tavaux is the largest plant in the Solvay group. Solvay is an international chemical and pharmaceutical group with headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. The Tavaux plant, France, is the largest chemical production site in the Solvay group.

## CHALLENGE

With an ever-growing number of instrument assets, the maintenance team was looking for innovative ways to manage activities without increasing staff. More predictive diagnostics were coming in from the intelligent field devices to help maintenance staff detect problems before they caused an unplanned shutdown. Managing the devices and the predictive information was becoming increasingly complex as the total number of instruments at the plant increased to 15,000 with 60,000 input/outputs.

With so many instruments, Solvay needed to quickly create a database that would enable replacement devices to be easily configured. In addition, they were looking for ways to access the devices online in order to gather and analyse diagnostic information and plan maintenance activities. The company also needed to improve its site qualifying tests and enhance safety at the plant.

***“During the start up of the EPICEROL unit, Emerson’s AMS Device Manager ensured that not only instruments but also the distributed control system were configured right the first time.”***

**Giacomo D’Andrea**  
Service Manager,  
Automation/Instrumentation/Electricity



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## SOLUTION

The architecture installed in 2002 at the Solvay site in Martorell was used as a benchmark for the installation of AMS® Suite: Intelligent Device Manager predictive maintenance software at the Tavaux site in 2006. While Martorell had one server and one station, while in Tavaux, the architecture linked 4 DeltaV™ systems at different factory units with one AMS Device Manager server to manage 2,300 tags. Using AMS Device Manager, Solvay was able to create a complete database of device information in less than one day.

The instruments are connected to AMS Device Manager and automatically stored in the database. Maintenance staff can then use AMS Device Manager to manage the calibration of the devices and document and trend the calibration information. Devices not connected to AMS Device Manager are checked with the 375 Field Communicator and collected information is downloaded directly from the communicator to AMS Device Manager.

AMS ValveLink®, a SNAP-ON™ application to AMS Device Manager, is used to diagnose problems with the control valves fitted to the chlorine traps. These valves also have Fisher® FIELDVUE® DVC6000 digital valve controllers. These valves are tested every month and a “partial stroke test” is performed, without shutting the plant down or bypassing the valve. This test has already managed to detect an anomaly on a valve that is critical for the safety of the unit.

**“AMS Suite is of great value when commissioning. It is also our daily tool for identifying, standardizing, configuring instruments, and saving reference values.”**

**Giacomo D’Andrea,**  
Service Manager,  
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