

Agricultural Chemical Manufacturer Saves Thousands of Dollars During New Plant Start-Up

RESULTS

- Saved \$25,000 a day by getting plant into production
- Reduced start-up time to two weeks
- Increased plant uptime, saving a total of \$1.5 million



APPLICATION

Instrumentation and control valves in a new sulfuric acid production unit

CUSTOMER

Chemical Plant in Plainview, TX, USA

CHALLENGE

This agricultural chemical manufacturer's original schedule called for starting their plant after a six-week commissioning period. However, the control system kept shutting down because the field instruments were not communicating properly.

An independent contractor was hired as the low bidder to configure and calibrate more than 200 HART® field devices and 25 control valves in a new sulfuric acid production facility. Most of the instruments were Rosemount® pressure and temperature transmitters, along with Fisher® control valves with FIELDVUE® digital valve controllers. This commissioning crew had neither the tools nor the knowledge to do this job, and since they were not certified by Emerson, they could not call for factory support.

The original six-week commissioning period had expanded into several months due to the independent contractor not having the right tools, knowledge, or contacts to assist in the start-up. The delay was at a cost of as much as \$25,000 per day in lost production.

“Having Emerson Instrument & Valve Services in here was the best thing we’ve ever done. They were thorough and perfect on everything because they knew what they were doing. Best money we ever spent.”

Plant Foreman

SOLUTION

After several attempts by the original instrumentation contractor to start and run the plant, the plant foreman called his Emerson representative and asked for help. Within a few days, a crew of trained Emerson instrument and control technicians arrived on site and began going through every instrument and control valve in the new plant to ensure they were properly installed and configured according to the design specifications. This meant validating every instrument to be sure the measurements were accurate and that the 4-20 mA signals were reaching the distributed control system. It also meant checking all control loops to be certain every valve was responding correctly to the inputs.

The well-trained and equipped Emerson team worked efficiently and effectively to finish the assignment in less time than initially estimated. The entire commissioning period took only two weeks. They were on site when the plant was started up and didn't leave until it was running smoothly. The plant has been up and running steadily for 12 months since the start-up due to the proper commissioning service provided.



RESOURCES

<http://www.emersonprocess.com/ivs>

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