

Italian mining company uses Emerson's Movicon.NExT™ SCADA system to manage clay extraction plant

RESULTS

- No production downtime during system migration
- Easy to configure, modern and dynamic solution
- Easily expandable, enabling extra remote workstations



APPLICATION

SCADA system for clay mine and production plant.

CUSTOMER

Svimisa S.p.A. – Sardinia, Italy

Mining company that extracts clay, feldspathic sands and bentonite used in ceramics and refractory industries.

CHALLENGE

The Svimisa clay pit and production plant in Sardinia was controlled by a proprietary SCADA system, developed in Visual C++, that had become obsolete and too difficult to modify. When Matica S.r.l., a system integration and application development specialist, was tasked with replacing old machinery with modern equipment, it required realignment of the automation system. This highlighted the limitations of the existing automation system, with implementation of even small modifications taking a very long time to complete. To prevent any potential future problems, Svimisa decided to revamp the system and migrate to a modern commercial SCADA system.

SOLUTION

Matica selected Emerson's Movicon.NExT SCADA system to manage the plant, overseeing the preparation of water taken from different sources, the extracted slurry presser process, screening and transformation of aggregates into the final product. The application was installed on a virtual machine, permitting Svimisa to continue production while Matica technicians performed installation and testing of the application's functions. This helped prevent any delays or production downtime.

The Movicon.NExT SCADA system communicates with a CPU equipped with an I/O card via an Ethernet network. Two nodes, located remotely from the CPU and each other, are connected on a

“In order to make full use of the advantages provided by modern automation systems and above all their flexibility, we chose to migrate to the Movicon.NExT platform.”

Fabio Fraternali
Technical director of Matica S.r.l.

Profibus network. The Movicon.NExT architecture provided the performance and reliability required, running smoothly during client connection sessions, with the low use of machine resources making it possible to install it on a virtual machine using the same host as the SCADA system being replaced.

Movicon.NexT helped ensure that a number of agreed targets were met. Firstly, the SCADA system is easy to configure and dynamic enough to align the system with modern machinery and equipment. The homepage was designed to minimize the need to change pages for normal operation of production processes, helping to consolidate operator interface interaction. The flexibility of the Movicon.NexT graphical interface simplified the replication of existing functions and shortcuts, which meant operators did not have to change the way they worked. Svimisa now has an easily expandable platform, with the possibility to add extra remote workstations in the future, as required. Critically, production downtime was completely avoided during the migration process, with Svimisa having the security of returning to the original system, if needed.

RESOURCES

Programmable Automation Controllers

www.Emerson.com/PACSystems

Movicon

www.Emerson.com/Automation-Software

“Emerson’s support service is impeccable and assisted our developers throughout each stage. This is a great advantage for anyone developing applications like these. To have someone who is ready to listen and help clients with their every need is just as important as the product itself.”

Fabio Fraternali

Technical director of Matica S.r.l.



Minimal page changes are required to supervise operations.

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