Sanofi selects ABB

By choosing the flexibility of ABB’s step-wise control system evolution, Sanofi-Synthelabo acquired the control system reliability they needed to achieve modernization and to lower maintenance costs.

Client: Sanofi-Synthelabo
Location: France
Scope of Work: Upgrade of MOD 300 control system to Industrial IT

 quotes

“Migrating to a simpler programming tool (AdvaBuild v3), has allowed us to improve the definition of our needs. Larger use of TCL and better use of the loops (the cycle), have allowed us to improve the procedure and find ways to fine-tune the functions. It was a successful migration. The results are there. Now we’re planning other migrations.”

Jean-Marc Bodin
Process Control Engineering
Sanofi-Synthelabo

Sanofi initially chose an ABB control system for its functions and scalability. They later stayed with ABB, and upgraded for continuous process improvements, visibility of actionable information, open architecture, simplified programming and engineering tools, faster response time and lower maintenance costs.

Background
Sanofi-Synthelabo is the seventh largest pharmaceutical laboratory in Europe, and the sixteenth largest in the world. In their laboratories, Sanofi is developing approximately 55 different molecules with about 32,000 different collaborators. It is a very big group, in over 100 countries.

Initially Sanofi chose ABB to satisfy the functional needs of their three reactors, and to install a system that would be scalable.

The Solution
“In 1997, we chose again to stay with ABB, primarily for the program functions for the three reactors” said Jean-Marc Bodin, Manager of Process Engineering. “The upgrade allowed us to migrate progressively.”

Proven Solutions Based on Industry Knowledge and Experience
“We couldn’t change the entire system all at once, or stop production for a long time period just for upgrading,” Bodin continued. “We have to be sure to be successful. That is why we decided to stay with ABB. It has proven to be a very open system that allows us to do programming without any difficulties.

“Because the operators are trained on MOD 300, extending the ABB installation was the right choice. It was easier to train the operators on..."
Why Choose ABB?

- Investment enhancement through evolution
- Reduced time to decision and action
- Scalability
- Optimizing plant asset availability
- Engineering for maximum performance
- Integrating information for improved visibility
- Proven solutions based on industry knowledge and experience

Looking Ahead

The good relationship between ABB and Sanofi works very well. When asked about it, Bodin said, “The evolution of the systems was well done, so I expect in the future that Sanofi will continue to work on group projects together with ABB. I’ve worked with ABB since 1995 and I have a good relationship with them. I’m very happy to work with them, and hope our good relationship continues.”

Evolution to Industrial IT

ABB control system users all over the world improve performance and lower life cycle costs by building upon their existing ABB systems. Add the technological advances of ABB’s Industrial IT offerings to get even more return from the systems you have.

ABB is dedicated to preserving the process security and value of your control system investment. We provide the industry’s most comprehensive system life cycle and evolution programs to enhance your overall functionality and productivity, along with superior ongoing product support and service to keep your system operating at peak performance levels.

For more information on ABB control systems, call us at: 1.800.922.2475 (or if not in the US: +1 585.273.6417), email us at: industrialitsolutions@us.abb.com, or log on to: www.abb.com/controlsystems.

For more information on how ABB’s Industrial IT technology can be employed to solve your pharmaceutical processing issues, visit us at: www.abb.com/lifesciences.