

## Upgrade without shutdown

### Complete automation upgrade for underground storage facility of German utility company

**What's unique?** The upgrade of the facility is performed without shutting down operations.

ABB service specialists work together with the customer to provide a complete evolution solution to EWE AG, one of Germany's largest energy services companies. The close collaboration with the customer during the planning phase is key factor in the project execution.

**"They key to this successful teamwork between EWE and ABB is the high competence and engagement of all team members," says Ralf Rickenberg, project leader for EWE.**

In Nüttermoor, northern Germany, EWE operates currently 18 natural gas caverns with a gas storage capacity of over one billion cubic meters. Approximately 30,000 signals are processed by 14 ABB AC870P controllers and an integrated safety control system. The operation and visualizing of the plant is done via 20 clients of ABB's Extended Automation System 800xA. EWE's central control room in Oldenburg is connected to the plant with a remote connection using the ABB Freelance 800F control system. All systems are designed in redundancy and are highly available.

#### **The project is scheduled in four phases.**

ABB began in 2006 the plant modernization with the project completion scheduled in 2010. "The phases should be ideally executed separately to ensure that each phase builds on each other," explains Silvia Torrico-Munoz, ABB project leader. "But to ensure the plant's flexible and uninterrupted operation, ABB's project activities often overlap."



ABB is currently expanding the system for the integration of three additional gas caverns. "They key to this successful teamwork between EWE and ABB is the high competence and engagement of all team members," says Ralf Rickenberg, project leader for EWE.

"We work hand-in-hand, so that we can handle unforeseen requirements and solve potential problems relatively quickly. ABB's systems also offer the technology, such as online programming, that ensures the availability of the gas storages. This allows us to offer our customers uninterrupted service even while we're upgrading our systems. That's why EWE also uses identical ABB technology at two of our other storage facilities."

ABB's evolution solution saves EWE costs, eliminates downtime and ensures a smooth transition while working closely with a competent process supplier.

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