Life Sciences Competence Center in Eschborn

The life sciences sector is one of the few branches of industry to have enjoyed constant growth in recent years. What is more, all forecasts for this sector point to healthy growth in the future.

Hardly another sector relies as heavily on automation technology as the biotech and pharmaceuticals industry. Operating in a highly regulated market, manufacturers are under pressure to deliver top-quality products as quickly as possible. A critical factor here is the short period for which new patents are valid. Every day that elapses between initial clinical research and official approval of a medicine can cost the producer millions of dollars.

To be successful, pharmaceutical companies require production plant that combines flexibility with high speed, while guaranteeing high quality and safety standards. A single installation must be able to simultaneously produce several different specimens, in a variety of forms, using different recipes and different production processes. In the pharmaceuticals industry this applies not only to the primary production (ie, production of the active substances) but also to the secondary production (the actual drug manufacturing).

ABB has supplied this industry for many years with traditional automation products and services, such as instrumentation and control systems, mostly for the primary production area. Integrated automation systems specifically for this sector are offered by ABB. Based on ABB's Industrial^{IT} architecture, they provide the uniform, enterprise-wide information management compa-

nies need to meet their key goals of improved efficiency and productivity.

While continuing to provide products and services to the growing primary production sector, ABB is now positioning itself in the equally promising secondary production segment. To this end, our company has set up a Life Sciences Competence Center at Eschborn, near Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Know-how leveraged by ABB specialists and project engineers from the group's worldwide operations is concentrated in this center.

DCS-based automation systems play a central role here, but there is also a strong emphasis on segment-specific products, solutions and consultancy offerings. These include production management solutions, customized for batch-oriented manufacturing (21 CFR Part 11 compliant). Also involved is clean room technology, including the associated building automation. And at the end of the production lines, robot-assisted packaging and palletizing systems contribute to cost optimization and improved flexibility. ABB is particularly active in automated packaging, offering complete cells with robots that can perform multiple tasks (handling, labeling, etc).

Thanks to production know-how covering the entire life sciences value chain, ABB specialists are able to offer consulting services for complete production facilities, including the automation technology.

Besides products and solutions especially for the life sciences sector, ABB supplies industry with a wide range of traditional electrotechnical products and systems. All of these components are based on ABB's Industrial IT platform, ensuring seamless linking of multiple applications and systems for trouble-free exchange of information in real time.

25 years of ABB in Bolivia

Bolivia is a country of contrasts. ABB's offices there are located in the cool air of the capital, La Paz, at 3600 meters above sea level, and in the tropical heat of Santa Cruz, the country's oil and gas center, located some 3 km lower.

In its 25 years in Bolivia, ABB has supported several large electrification projects, cooperating with local generation companies such as Cobee, Electropaz and Tde. ABB supplied, for example, the national load dispatch center and the new control center for Cobee with a Spider 9 system, and provided all the substation equipment for the 230-kV transmission grid. This line is the most important and the voltage level the highest in Bolivia. The pylons, too, are the country's highest, some ABB-installed towers being 4500 meters above sea level.

Photo courtesy of TDE, Bolivia

Currently, ABB is tendering for the National Transmission System expansion, in which companies like Abengoa, Red Electrica (both Spain), ISA (Colombia), and Litsa (Argentina) are participating. ABB Bolivia has also become one of the first references in Latin America for ABB's Industrial^{IT} solution for refineries through an automation project for EBR (a subsidiary of Petrobras).

For further information contact *gery.cerruto@bo.abb.com*.