ABB designs a new fully automated paint and varnish plant

Blanchon-Syntilor set tough environmental, safety and production goals for its new paint and varnish production plant. ABB responded with Industrial IT solutions that met stringent environmental and safety requirements while delivering 20,000 tons of product per year.

Client: Blanchon-Syntilor Paint and Varnish Plant
Location: Belmont-Tramonet (Savoy), France
Scope of Work: Turnkey design, installation and startup of new fully automated plant

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M. Jacques Chatenet
Technical Manager
Blanchon-Syntilor

Some decisions guarantee success….Blanchon-Syntilor’s existing production plant is fully manual and inflexible; they chose to build a brand new one. They reviewed ABB’s process engineering expertise, Industrial IT technology and previous accomplishments in the paint and varnish industry. Then Blanchon-Syntilor chose ABB to handle their project from start to finish.

The Blanchon-Syntilor group, specialist of preservative and decorative products for wood, have invested in a world-class plant in Savoy which is fully dedicated to water-based paint, varnish and wood preservatives. Blanchon-Syntilor is a true pioneer, being one of the first companies to start production of water-based products more than 15 years ago.

Blanchon-Syntilor’s existing production plant in Domessin, France, is fully manual and has reached its production limit.

“We wanted to build a fully automated production plant that combines performance and flexibility within the production cycles,” says M. Jacques Chatenet, Technical Manager of Blanchon-Syntilor. “The first constraint of this project was to build a plant that respects human beings and the environment. It had to be ISO-14001 certified, with no rejects into the water, air and ground. The second constraint was to improve safety and staff working conditions.”

Blanchon-Syntilor selected a new location, right by the strategic Chambéry/Lyon motorway in Belmont-Tramonet. They then began searching for a company that could design, install and start up a new fully automated paint and varnish production plant. They quickly settled upon ABB.
ABB offered a combination of qualifications no one else could match: process engineering expertise; a single global source and single contact for everything from the basic engineering up to overall project management; and prestigious references from other companies in the industry.

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Beginning at the design stage of the project, ABB focused on the optimized design to reduce environmental impact. “We worked closely together with ABB to find new solutions,” says M. Chatenet.

ABB’s scope of work encompassed design, commissioning and training, including the design of original process equipment. To meet Blanchon-Syntilor’s tough quality, environmental and production objectives, all the key process stages in the new plant (storage, dosing, mixing, dispersion, filtration, tinting, pigging and packaging) incorporate ABB’s IndustrialIT equipment, software and solutions. The IndustrialIT suite ensures a unified system that is readily validated, easily upgraded and fully complaint with industry standards and regulations, from the level of individual sensors all the way to the process control supervision system.

The entire plant reflects ABB’s expertise in:
- Formulation technology for paints and specialty chemicals
- Process engineering
- Process equipment design
- Process control
- The paint and specialty chemicals industry.

The production capacity at the new site is 12,000 tons per year of a variety of environmentally friendly paints and varnishes. A real partnership between ABB and Blanchon-Syntilor, from the basic engineering through to training, ensured the success of this project. Chatenet says, “With this new plant, we have an efficient production tool enabling us to respond to the demanding requirements of our customers.”

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