

Freelance VS Group's new flagship – Nobel NC



VS Group is one of the world's leading producers of industrial nitrocellulose, a film forming resin used in inks and coating. With two factories in Thailand and total production of 40,000 tons per year, VS group is one of the largest industrial nitrocellulose manufacturers in the world. The latest contribution to the group is a state of the art facility in Chainat province, Thailand.

Situated just 160 km outside Bangkok the Nobel NC plant piles up in the green rice fields and is surrounded by the Chaopraya River that also provides the facility with an abundant source of processing water. The first production line was commissioned in September 2008 and a second line was taken into operation in 2009. The plant is a key resource in VS Group's portfolio and brings up VS Group's production volume with 30,000 tons annually making VS Group one of the biggest nitrocellulose producers in the world.

Mr. leum, CEO of Nobel NC, meets us at its training facility, he is the brain and energy behind the group and you get swept away with his enthusiasm. leum takes us on a tour through the facilities and the day we are visiting Nobel NC are conducting an operator training, so the facilities are buzzing with new operators that are keen to start working. VS Group is doing all engineering and operator training in-house, their 5 men strong engineering team has engineered the whole Nobel NC factory.

"This would not have been possible with any other Distributed Control System," Mr. leum tells us, and continues "We have received ineffable support from ABB and that made it possible for us to commission the plant in record time".

With easy engineering, Freelance allows for consistent configuration, commissioning and diagnosis – from graphic displays to field devices – with only one engineering tool.

Increased production and revenue, how is this possible? Mr. leum brings us to his world of automation

When producing nitrocellulose it's important to have continuous processes that can be run without any interruptions on a stable platform, so when VS group went shopping for a DCS, ABB's Freelance system was the perfect match: flexible, small footprint and with a high reliability. "We have been using Freelance since version 1, when building a new plant we didn't even think of using any other."

The flexibility of Freelance has helped VS group to meet the high demands that they are facing when producing a specialty chemical. "Having a flexible control system that can help us expand in our own pace is a key when you're in the specialty chemical business".

Freelance gives potential savings in engineering, commissioning, testing, service and maintenance

Since VS Group started to use Freelance they have enlarged their production without the usual increase of man power. "We have increased our production efficiency and reduced our production losses due to the fact that we use Freelance, and this is affecting our bottom line in a very positive way," says Mr. leum with a big smile on his face.

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