



## Plant Productivity Increased at Repsol YPF by More Than 20%.

Lubricant and Specialties producer Repsol YPF upheld its high quality standards while improving their Blending Plant's performance in a growing, complex environment.

**Client:** Repsol YPF  
**Location:** La Plata, Argentina  
**Scope of Work:** System 800xA Extended Automation

*"Frankly, ABB offered what we were looking for, from pumping knowledge into the system and being able to capture vital information for analyzing to making decisions that improve the process day to day."*

Daniel Reale  
Production Manager of Lubricants  
and Paraffins  
Repsol YPF



**To respond to new market pressures and to ensure product quality, full traceability of operations, competitive costs and optimized equipment utilization at their new Lube Blending facility, Argentina's largest energy company selected ABB's System 800xA Extended Automation.**

### The Background

Repsol YPF is an international oil & gas company with operations in 25 different countries. It is a market leader in Spain and Argentina. Its oil production and refining capacity surpass 1.2 million barrels a day. Repsol YPF's network of operations includes more than 6,600 points of sale in Europe and Latin America. It is the largest company in Argentina. Repsol YPF's La Plata facility is a major local producer of automotive gas (fuel oil, diesel oil, gasoline) as well as lubricants and specialties (asphalts, paraffins and derivatives).

Repsol YPF's DOLE (Departamento de Operaciones de Lubricantes y Especialidades) at La Plata stands out among lubricants plants in its relentless quest to continuously improve its processes while offering its partner customers the highest quality product and service, determination to emphasize true partnership with its suppliers over strict business relationships and a culture focused on people and quality.

Their lubricants blending plant recently faced multiple marketing challenges, including product portfolio extension, reduction of batch sizes and heavier customer constraints.

## The Solution

Repsol YPF decided to replace their existing control system with a plantwide control system: the System 800xA from ABB. Information Management and Batch Management are also utilized at the La Plata facility.

From reception of raw materials, through blending and filling to truck loading, all DOLE plant transactions are controlled according to planned orders and quality requirements through their advanced manufacturing system.

"We chose ABB as a strategic partner in our technological development because ABB is one of the first companies in the world in technology," said Ms. Mónica Vásquez, Operations Manager of Lubricants and Specialties for Repsol YPF. "We know that they look to innovate and create, we know they are always one step ahead of the rest. We think of the provider as a partner who looks at the market with us and that looks to generate new business opportunities, like us, convinced that if businesses are businesses to us, they will be businesses for them too, because that's what being partners is all about, about having mutual benefits."

## Results

The real time monitoring of the above-mentioned activities enables the plant to respond quickly to market demands, producing high-standard quality products with significantly reduced manpower and inventory cost.

The scheduling function optimizes company assets and reduces cross contamination and slops.

The historian capabilities allow continuous improvement of the process through powerful analysis tools.

The first stage of the installation includes products from different Industrial<sup>IT</sup> suites, including: Control<sup>IT</sup>, Operate<sup>IT</sup>, Engineer<sup>IT</sup>, Produce<sup>IT</sup> and Inform<sup>IT</sup> (AC800M controllers with about 1,400 S800 I/O points, Process Portal and Process Panel displays, Batch application and connectivity for recipes / inventory / production orders from the ERP –SAP- through Information Management).

"The goal was to increase the plant's flexibility," Reale said. "The principal indicator is to increase by 20% the

## Why Choose ABB?

- Reducing Time to Decision and Action
- Engineering for Maximum Performance
- Investment Enhancement Through Evolution
- Integrating Information for Improved Visibility
- Capacity to Implement Tailor-Made Process Solutions
- Local knowledge and support

plant's productivity. This isn't only "making more lubricants" – the goal is to improve productivity through the improvement of efficiency and efficacy of production: more and better. We are talking about flexibility in a plant that makes 120 different products with 10 changeovers (product changes) per production unit a day. So that, the objective is to increase productivity, reducing production costs in a highly complex environment. The improvement is based on reducing the Reblend Index from a 15% to a 5% (efficiency); - reducing costs of scrap generated during cleaning lines after a product change by 15 or 20%, which is comparable to 120 annual cubic meters (efficacy). Repsol YPF is achieving - and in some cases, exceeding – these efficiency improvements because the capabilities of our ABB control system strengthen the process technology changes."

Reale again: "The 800xA is a system of the utmost reliability. Today we have defined one recipe for each "process," so that once you define how you are going to do it, it will take all the steps necessary. Once we are satisfied with the result, the ABB control system allows me to do it in the same way always. I believe it's the correct platform needed to grow and it's the platform that lets you add lots of technology for optimizing. This is vital to our vision of always being competitive and to always be the best option for our clients."

For more information on how ABB's System 800xA Extended Automation can be employed to solve your control issues, visit us at [www.abb.com/controlsystems](http://www.abb.com/controlsystems).

For more information on how ABB System 800xA Extended Automation control solutions can be employed to solve your refining issues, visit us at [www.abb.com/chemical](http://www.abb.com/chemical).



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