



## Sanofi selects ABB

By choosing the flexibility of ABB's step-wise control system evolution, Sanofi-Synthelabo acquired the control system reliability they needed to achieve modernization and to lower maintenance costs.

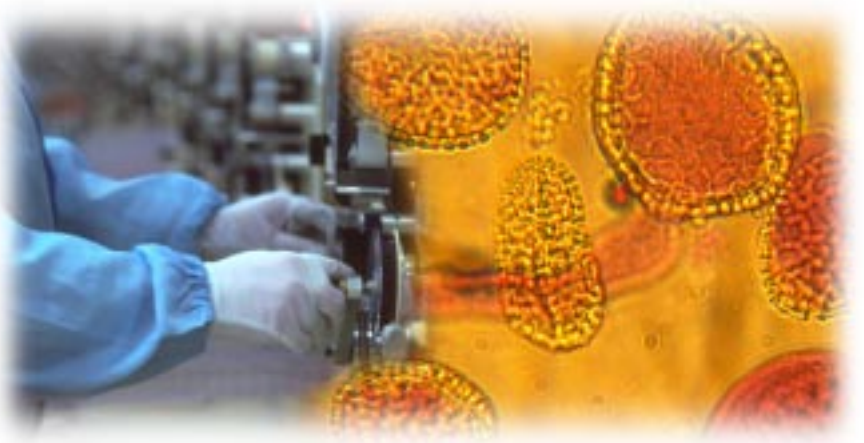
**Client:** Sanofi-Synthelabo

**Location:** France

**Scope of Work:** Upgrade of MOD 300 control system to Industrial IT

*"Migrating to a simpler programming tool (AdvaBuild v3), has allowed us to improve the definition of our needs. Larger use of TCL and better use of the loops (the cycle), have allowed us to improve the procedure and find ways to fine-tune the functions. It was a successful migration. The results are there. Now we're planning other migrations."*

Jean-Marc Bodin  
Process Control Engineering  
Sanofi-Synthelabo



**Sanofi initially chose an ABB control system for its functions and scalability. They later stayed with ABB, and upgraded for continuous process improvements, visibility of actionable information, open architecture, simplified programming and engineering tools, faster response time and lower maintenance costs.**

### Background

Sanofi-Synthelabo is the seventh largest pharmaceutical laboratory in Europe, and the sixteenth largest in the world. In their laboratories, Sanofi is developing approximately 55 different molecules with about 32,000 different collaborators. It is a very big group, in over 100 countries.

Initially Sanofi chose ABB to satisfy the functional needs of their three reactors, and to install a system that would be scalable.

### The Solution

"In 1997, we chose again to stay with ABB, primarily for the program functions for the three reactors" said Jean-Marc Bodin, Manager of Process Engineering. "The upgrade allowed us to migrate progressively."

### Proven Solutions Based on Industry Knowledge and Experience

"We couldn't change the entire system all at once, or stop production for a long time period just for upgrading," Bodin continued. "We have to be sure to be successful. That is why we decided to stay with ABB. It has proven to be a very open system that allows us to do programming without any difficulties."

"Because the operators are trained on MOD 300, extending the ABB installation was the right choice. It was easier to train the operators on



the extended system because they still had their base, to which we added the Advant solution. Extending the ABB installation gave us the reliability we required in order to modernize and lower maintenance costs. Migration to the Advant system was beneficial, too, because the operators have more options. (They) were practically self-training on the video and control screens.”

### **Integrating Information for Improved Visibility**

Bodin explains the advantages of improved visibility of information: “The ability to see all the data allows people to train themselves better. Today they are allowed to modify some values, of course with some rights to access, but it allows us to open the system to more operators and foremen.

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### **Investment Enhancement through Evolution**

Migration was a simple, internal process. Sanofi had the assistance of ABB for the initial hardware migration. But the development was done internally. Sanofi started in 1988 with three reactors. Today they have sixteen. The entire system has grown; there are many more subscribers today.

Ease of operation has been a key benefit for Sanofi. They have increased system capacity, while keeping system operation the same. “This has worked well. We have few breakdowns and the objective to work with Operate IT in this manner has continued,” says Bodin.

“We replaced the existing controller with an AC460 controller in 2001. We did this in around fifteen days. Everything functioned properly - it was a successful migration.” Sanofi is now planning other migrations.

### **Engineering for Maximum Performance**

By using Advant and ABB’s Data Processor Subsystem (DPSS) – Sanofi saves programming time. “We’re able to develop standards that we use regularly. (These products) allow us to be operational very quickly by testing initially. We can program a complete reactor in a very short period of time!” Bodin says.

“Also, there is a need to do research extractions to Excel; it allows us to quickly determine the root cause of problems in the factory. It’s really interesting and fast.”



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## **Why Choose ABB?**

- Investment enhancement through evolution
- Reduced time to decision and action
- Scalability
- Optimizing plant asset availability
- Engineering for maximum performance
- Integrating information for improved visibility
- Proven solutions based on industry knowledge and experience

### **Looking Ahead**

The good relationship between ABB and Sanofi works very well. When asked about it, Bodin said, “The evolution of the systems was well done, so I expect in the future that Sanofi will continue to work on group projects together with ABB. I’ve worked with ABB since 1995 and I have a good relationship with them. I’m very happy to work with them, and hope our good relationship continues.”

### **Evolution to Industrial IT**

ABB control system users all over the world improve performance and lower life cycle costs by building upon their existing ABB systems. Add the technological advances of ABB’s Industrial IT offerings to get even more return from the systems you have.

ABB is dedicated to preserving the process security and value of your control system investment. We provide the industry’s most comprehensive system life cycle and evolution programs to enhance your overall functionality and productivity, along with superior ongoing product support and service to keep your system operating at peak performance levels.

For more information on ABB control systems, call us at: 1.800.922.2475 (or if not in the US: +1 585.273.6417), email us at: [industrialitsolutions@us.abb.com](mailto:industrialitsolutions@us.abb.com), or log on to: [www.abb.com/controlsystems](http://www.abb.com/controlsystems).

For more information on how ABB’s Industrial IT technology can be employed to solve your pharmaceutical processing issues, visit us at: [www.abb.com/lifesciences](http://www.abb.com/lifesciences).