



Givaudan teams with ABB for control system upgrade

When it was time to upgrade, and fine chemical manufacturer Givaudan could choose any control system on the market – they stayed in partnership with process automation leader ABB.

Client: Givaudan

Location: Barcelona, Spain

Scope of Work: Evolution of DCI control system to Industrial IT

“The commitment and the actions ABB has demonstrated over the years in migrating our system gives continuity to previous products and will enable us to evolve toward a future environment without having to simply throw overboard everything we have invested. A system like ABB’s is fantastic because it enables you to make changes in the configuration and production system incredibly easily and without having to invest too much time or money.”

Manuel Tendero
Engineering Manager
Givaudan



Fragrance and aroma manufacturer Givaudan made a choice in the mid-nineties. They decided to update a part of their control system. Givaudan always takes a team approach. They evaluated all the control systems available on the market from the engineer’s and the end user’s perspectives. Key decision factors were the functionality of the control system, the batch processes in particular and overall cost. Givaudan chose to upgrade their existing ABB system then, and continues to update and evolve their system toward the latest technology.

Background

Givaudan Iberica SA belongs to the multinational Givaudan Group, which is headquartered in Geneva. The group is dedicated to the production of fragrances and aromas. In the mid-nineties, they decided to update a part of their control system and had the opportunity of choosing one from among those available on the market.

Givaudan Engineering Manager Manuel Tendero says, “At the time of making the decision, it was very difficult because we had experience with the previous (ABB) products, but there was an opportunity to change. The selection criteria were multiple. Not only was it necessary to consider the engineering point of view, but also to take into account the end user’s perspective. You have to consider both points of view, and whether it is a control system from which both will benefit. At that time, I think the key decision factors were the control system, the batch processes, the cost and the history of good service. In previous years, the people from ABB had always provided good service.”

The Solution

Givaudan takes pride in its team approach to decision-making. They evaluated all options from the perspective of the end user of the system as well as from the perspective of the engineers.



They looked at the difference between ABB's evolution solution versus the more common "rip and replace," plan being implemented by most of ABB's competitors.

They looked at the true, long-term costs of investment, including training, and the ability of the system provider to properly service the equipment so that Givaudan's processes and uptime were maximized. They chose to update their existing ABB system.

One advantage of the ABB upgrade was the user-friendliness and familiarity of the Windows-based interface. "Compared with PLC's and other systems, I can assure you that this one of the easiest systems (to use) that I've seen, from both the engineering and the user viewpoints" Tendero stated.

Givaudan Production Manager Joan Colominas said: "We have been able to maintain the same control network and the same control equipment. We have come to realize how easy it is to install and integrate the upgrades and enhancements into our current control network."

Colominas again: "It's been a few years, and we're satisfied with the choice we made, given the results both in the product and in the service provided."

Investment Enhancement through Evolution

ABB's protection of its control system user's investment has paid off for this fine chemical manufacturer. Colominas stated: "ABB has always updated the system with new incorporations, with new equipment, but always respecting the existing installations. We've made numerous extensions to the control system and now have a relatively large control network. The installation process is relatively simple, and it is a very visual system. We are very satisfied both with the products and the service of ABB."

ABB Services

Engineer Luis de los Rios finds the control system to be very powerful and stable. He's pleased with ABB Services, particularly the speed with which they support his needs:

"In this facility, Givaudan has over 5,500 signals in thirteen distributed control units on fifteen display screens. This means that good maintenance service by ABB is absolutely vital. ABB's service department always responds. They always respond quickly - and well."

Tendero added: "The ABB Services we presently have are: preventive maintenance, maintenance in case of breakdowns, and training. I think continuous maintenance training for the user and the staff is very important."

Looking Ahead

When asked about his hopes for the Givaudan-ABB partnership in the future, a happy Joan Colominas summed up the upgrade and partnering experience thusly: "Obviously, we expect to continue with ABB in the future, if the service and the product continue to be as good as they have been up to now."

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, or log on to: www.abb.com/controlsystems.

For more information on how ABB's Industrial IT technology can be employed to solve your chemical processing control issues, visit us at: www.abb.com/chemical.



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