

Schülke & Mayr GmbH, Germany

Clean and Integrated

Thanks to the Simatic PCS 7 process control system and the Simatic Batch software, a new plant for disinfectant production at Schülke & Mayr is running smoothly. The managers are enthusiastic about the high degree of system integration and the resulting improved ease of use.

Working under sterile conditions would be impossible without the use of disinfectants. Schülke & Mayr GmbH have long played a major role in this field, starting in 1913 with the introduction of Sagrotan, the first brand-name disinfectant for the consumer market.

The company, founded in 1889 in Norderstedt near Hamburg, Germany, now produces 200 specialized products in the fields of wound care, disinfection, and specialty chemistry. Until the recent construction of a new plant, however, Schülke & Mayr had no plant for the production and bottling of surface disinfectants.

Close collaboration

The contract for the automation of the new plant was awarded to the Siemens Solution Partner on/off engineering. "Prior to the project, we conducted several intensive workshops to determine the requirements," reports Lars Schulze, project manager at Schülke & Mayr. These requirements were recorded as specifications for the engineering of the process control system based on Simatic PCS 7 with Simatic Batch. "Crucial for this project was that Simatic Batch is in accordance with the requirements of the S88 standard, and we would get a 21 CFR Part 11-compliant solution with PCS 7," Schulze explains.

Central challenges mastered

The qualification and validation of the automation system represents a special challenge in pharmaceutical plants. Siemens supports the validation with suitable products and guidelines that make work easier for the project team.

For on/off engineering, good preliminary work in the design and engineering phase and close collaboration with all the project participants were crucial for the successful implementation of the specification requirements. In this process, documenting the software design was as high a priority as the engi-



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neering itself, as it ensured that the detail design approved by Schülke & Mayr was implemented into the corresponding PCS 7 application software in a qualified manner and that the program contains only defined and documented states. It was also critical to define functional processes and recipe structures with the electrical engineers, process development engineers, and plant design engineers in order to have a validated plant at the end of the tests. According to the project managers at on/off, this interdisciplinary teamwork is the key to success in many projects.

Simplified operation

In collaboration with on/off engineering, the existing standard reporting was tailored to the special needs of production. The process control system is readily equipped for possible future production expansions and the integration of the SAP enterprise resource planning (ERP) system already in use today.

Before the PCS 7 system was delivered to the site, Schülke & Mayr approved the programs in a factory acceptance test (FAT), together with the machine manufacturer for some parts, on the premises of on/off. Then the system was installed on-site, tested, and accepted.

At Schülke & Mayr, the staff are satisfied with the progress and the results. "We worked together constructively and successfully," confirms Schulze. "The biggest advantage, in our opinion, lies with the introduction of Simatic Batch." The option to integrate the ERP system later on and thus automate the job and batch regeneration process is another advantage. "We benefit from the integration of the systems," Schulze concludes. "No connection needs to be set up by hand – everything runs automatically – and that saves us a lot of work." ■

on/off engineering gmbh was founded as a product- and system-independent engineering company for automation technology in Hannover, Germany, in 1988. Since then, the company has developed into a leading provider of process automation engineering services. Today, more than 120 employees work at several branch offices in Germany and Europe. on/off supports its customers with customized solutions. The company's services include the following:

- Process automation for the process industry
- Control cabinet engineering and assembly
- Manufacturing execution systems
- 24/7 service
- IT infrastructure
- Quality management consulting
- Training
- Manufacturing industry automation

Solution
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Automation

In Norderstedt near Hamburg, Schülke & Mayr GmbH produces over 200 specialty products in the areas of wound care, disinfection, and specialized chemistry. Sterile surface disinfectants are produced and bottled at the new plant



The plant's processes are automated with Simatic PCS 7 and Simatic Batch

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