

Worldwide Framework for MES Between Symrise GmbH & Co. KG & Felten Could Benefit Products4Automation, with Planned UK Installations.

UK company, Products4Automation (P4A), could benefit from a worldwide framework agreement between Symrise and the FELTEN Group, for the introduction of FELTEN PILOT MES systems. Symrise is among the four largest providers of fragrance and flavouring substances, and base and active cosmetic ingredients worldwide, and is active in more than 35 countries. Under the framework agreement FELTEN will provide its unique PILOT MES system to Symrise plants globally, including those in Great Britain, where FELTEN is seeking to conclude an agreement with P4A, to act as the company's PILOT distributor for the UK.

"With this agreement, we are able to extend our successful co-operation across the whole scope of our operations worldwide." said Dr. Ludwig Tumbrink, Supply Chain Director F&N Liquid Compounding EAME at Symrise. "The beneficial effects of the previously-implemented solutions and, most importantly, the culture of the co-operation have proven to be very fruitful in the past. That is why it was a logical step for us to use these positive experiences for our other international production facilities as well. As an example of this co-operation, the implementation of a FELTEN MES system in our Singapore plant has only recently been completed."

The worldwide framework agreement is recognition of the success already enjoyed by FELTEN - a specialist in the process industry - in providing Symrise with solutions that increase efficiency in the company's production management. These solutions have included the implementation of customised systems for Production management (MES) with SAP interface, a radio interface for hazardous areas, and a weighing and dispensing system (WDS).

All of the above solutions were developed using FELTEN's PILOT Suite. The PILOT is special because of its focus on Production Intelligence (PI). In order to achieve this, the "PILOT MES" (Manufacturing Execution System), "PILOT BDE" (operating and process data acquisition), and PILOT "WDS" (weighing and metering system) products, with their individual function modules, were customised to meet the requirements of Production Intelligence.

By integrating these products into a framework that also includes special PI tools, an innovative platform was created that results in the intelligent co-ordination of production management. The holistic approach of Production Intelligence differentiates itself significantly from the classical concepts generally associated with MES products, by the fact that these classical concepts give a very isolated view of the planning and control processes. As a result, the conventional models have clear limitations for optimally exhausting productivity potentials.

PI opens up these previously isolated perspectives and makes way for the true integration of business and production processes, which are uniformly controlled by characteristic values. By doing so, performance potentials can be exhausted in a more targeted and comprehensive manner. At the same time, the technological advances of the PILOT products ensure that companies flexibly create their workflows according to individual demand and that they can change their workflows in a matter of minutes. This results in an optimum ratio between automation and the flexibility for each process.

Paul Hurst, MD of P4A, describes the problem this way: "Despite their integration into ERP and other infrastructure systems, conventional methods for production management have always worked with a very limited focus." He sees this as a significant limitation in exhausting the possibilities for increasing productivity.

"The processes are the real capital in production management, because they don't just determine the relationship between quality and quantity in the output, they also determine the economic efficiency. Up until now, processes were not given enough attention because of a strong technical focus. Suitable software solutions are important, but they must focus on the processes," says Hurst. "As the first product strategy for production management, the PILOT Suite, in conjunction with the PI framework, completely fulfills the holistic requirements of production intelligence and therefore we are a significant step ahead in the market."



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About P4A

Products4Automation (P4A) is a specialist supplier of new and innovative software and hardware solutions to the UK market. Products ranges available from P4A include the latest touch-screen HMI's and flat panel PCs, SCADA software and plug-ins, a wide range of SCADA enabled hardware, Alarm plug-in software for large automation systems, and a full range of Production Intelligence software solutions.

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