Plant i.T.

Process Control Systems. MES inside.

Works with
Eco truxure

proleit.com

ProLeiT

by **Schneider** Electric

Up-to-date in all aspects of dairy

How the independent dairy Bauer has invested in even more integration, transparency and compatibility thanks to Plant iT V9.60. Being innovative is everything if you want to stay on the ball. But there is nothing wrong with sticking to a tried-and-trusted process control system if you want to retain familiar functionalities. Like at the independent dairy Bauer, where an update to Plant iT V9.60 from ProLeiT ensures many advantages, both old and new.

Founded in Wasserburg in 1887 as "Bauerschweizer Käsewerk" by Franz Seraph Bauer, the family-owned business is now in its fifth generation. The independent dairy Bauer is part of the Bauer Group and – after 130 years of continued success – is one of the largest dairy companies in Europe. With a true passion for milk and a desire to market natural products full of the best ingredients, the dairy is constantly evolving. The extensive product range includes popular fruit yogurts, such as "Der Große Bauer", Bavarian wine cheese and "Diplomat" semi-hard cheese, as well as constantly new innovations. Development and expansion of plant-based alternatives under the "GrünKraft" competence brand has seen the company launch a range of yogurt and cheese alternatives in 2021. It is not a contradiction in terms to say tradition, innovation and development have always gone hand in hand at Bauer – and this became even more clear during the last software upgrade to Plant iT V9.60 from ProLeiT.

Info

Company:
Privatmolkerei
Bauer
Sector:
Dairy Industry
Location:
Wasserburg
Country: Germany

Magazine:
molkerei industrie
Published: 08/2021

Strong process partnership

But let's start at the beginning: The process control system Plant iT has been in use at Bauer since 2000. Automation commenced in the milk delivery sector with three computers on the S7 platform. And this was so successful, in fact, that a decision was taken in 2003 to fully replace the former Otas MD (MULTIDOS) system with Plant iT. After this, Bauer continued to automate its processes until Plant iT versions 6.00 and 7.12 were used across all business units.

The plant in Wasserburg, Germany

Bauer's "GrünKraft" competence brand

Needless to say, when the topic of a software update arose in 2018, the current version 9 was installed. In addition to many old and new functionalities, Bauer's focus was on continuing to use the tried-and-trusted standard software together with familiar visualizations.

Future development guaranteed

This major upgrade also enabled access to the latest Microsoft Windows versions and database SQL servers. Thanks to ongoing support, optimized spare parts procurement and operation of cutting-edge automation technologies, future development of the plant is guaranteed. When looking back, Richard Rosenberger, one of six project managers at Bauer, says: "Updating all the software versions was a major priority at the start of the project." Adding: "The fact that Plant iT V9.60 allows us to use our familiar vector graphics, control programs and now also the Plant Direct iT Visu-Recorder for recording processes is of significant advantage. And we didn't even have to commission any new technological solutions to ensure everything works smoothly with the other process areas." Update of the existing Plant iT versions 6.00 and 7.12 to platform 9.60 relates to the entire process control and MES level. This means, Bauer now benefits even more than before from universal compatibility, a high degree of transparency and an intuitive, centralized user interface. And it was even possible to continue using the ERP interface.

Plant Direct iT Visu-Recorder is a special feature of the ProLeiT process control system. This application enables the retroactive monitoring of previous process sequences via the standard user interface and their direct output via the process visualization, similar to a VCR. This unique feature facilitates the retroactive analysis of errors, thereby allowing the process sequences at Bauer to be refined and improved continuously.
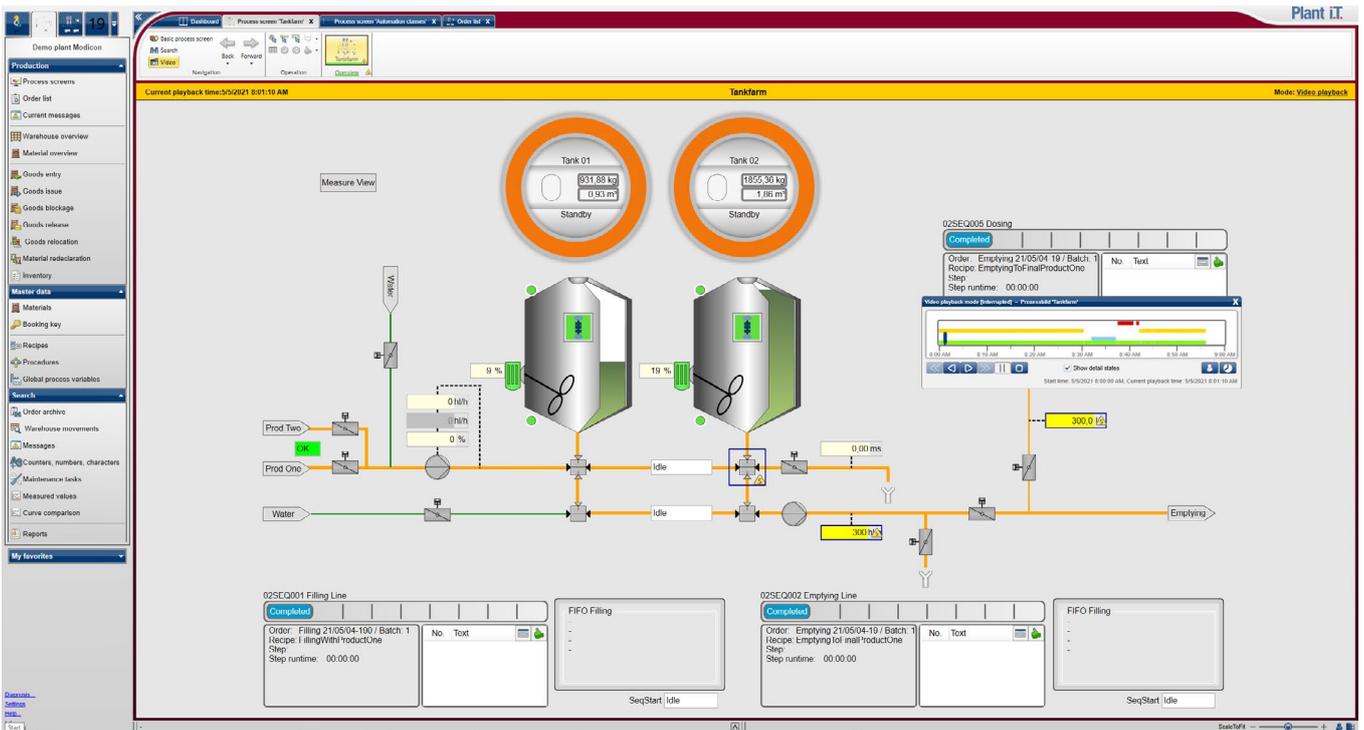
It's all about the planning

The main challenge of the upgrade was its sheer size and getting it completed without upsetting ongoing operations at the dairy. A total of five sub-servers were upgraded one after the other, thus integrating more than 20 controllers. The most important step was this first server upgrade, which was obviously relevant for the entire structure. Further servers were then converted to Plant iT V9.60 as part of short planning blocks. Some servers were, for instance, still operating with versions 6.00 and 7.12, while in other areas they had already been updated to the latest version. After having achieved all the milestones in the dairy's day-to-day business between 2018 and 2019, things continued in a cascade-like fashion in 2020: Gradually, all remaining areas were converted to V9.60 with brief periods of overlap.

ProLeiT sales manager Bernd Opgenorth remembers a very special moment during the project: "Monitoring of the first milk delivery was actually scheduled for the commissioning phase. But the update was installed successfully in the background well before the end of the originally planned test phase. Which allowed raw milk delivery to continue without any disruption. Proving yet again that, in the end, it's all about the planning."

Production at Bauer

Screenshot of Plant Direct iT Visu-Recorder: Retroactive fault diagnosis

Excellent and close cooperation

ProLeiT and Bauer developed the overall solution for the upgrade together. With the result that it directly contributes to significant improvements in Plant iT V9.60. Richard Rosenberger only has positive things to say about the renewed cooperation with ProLeiT: "Thanks to the upgrade to Plant iT V9.60, we are now able to visualize and operate all programs with an accessible, updateable and understandable system. We're able to work with the latest hardware and software without having to reprogram any existing programs in the controllers. Any new controllers that we set up are fully integrated under Plant iT V9.60. Development and implementation of the project were only possible due to the excellent and close cooperation between the ProLeiT and Bauer teams".

The process control system was exclusively developed and implemented for the independent German dairy. The customer is fully satisfied, and further projects for ERP connection and MES are already in the pipeline. Just like a new dessert range from Bauer that end customers can already look forward to. It is a brand-new area that was immediately integrated with Plant iT. All this allows you to enjoy the scrumptious tastes, while at Bauer everything is new and yet familiar.

Authors:

Richard Rosenberger, Project planning process engineering / Privatmolkerei Bauer
Bernd Opgenorth, Sales Manager Dairies & Beverages / ProLeiT GmbH

ProLeiT

by **Schneider** Electric

Visit us on
proleit.com

ProLeiT GmbH
Einsteinstr. 8 | 91074 Herzogenaurach | Germany
Tel: +49 9132 777 0 | Fax: +49 9132 777 150 | info@proleit.com