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Success Story // Dairy Industry // Tara Dairy, Israel

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Tailored upgrade for minimum downtime

More efficiency, long-term update capability and fit for the future in terms of cybersecurity: How ProLeiT upgraded the process control system at Tara, a long-standing dairy customer, in just 24 hours.

Tara Dairy, created in 1942 by seven dairy farmers, is one of the leading and most trusted dairy producers in Israel. Today, its products are sold in all supermarket chains throughout the country and beyond. Tara combines unique technologies with strict quality assurance procedures to manufacture a wide range of dairy products, which includes yogurt, cheese, milkshakes and dairy desserts.

Undoubtedly, a pivotal driver of success is the carefully selected partnerships that Tara has entered into throughout its history, exemplified by its collaboration in the field of process control systems. In this sector, the dairy has been cooperating with ProLeiT since 2011: The German software manufacturer played a central role in the new construction project of the dairy, formerly located in Tel Aviv, which involved fully automating the entire plant with Plant iT.



It all starts with excellent milk

Info

Company:
Tara Dairy
Sector:
Dairy Industry
Location: Tel Aviv
Country: Israel



View of the factory

The main challenge of the greenfield project in the south of Israel was the size and complexity of the cutting-edge dairy, boasting over 40 filling lines and a individually tailored control system that required more than 700 step sequences. To this day, the entire process level, including the line management system, is controlled by ProLeiT. Production orders and quality data are transmitted via interfaces to the ERP and laboratory systems, and all consumption and production data are fed back within the context of the order. This ensures continuous traceability, which, coupled with the implemented production data acquisition and reporting, promotes both transparency and efficiency in the production process.



Product portfolio

Upgrading – a race against the clock

The overall size and the individual adjustments made the upgrade project, which commenced in April 2022, particularly challenging. What is more, the upgrade had to be completed in just 24 hours. As such, it was necessary to comprehensively prepare the existing facility and all of Tara's employees for a successful shift to the new infrastructure. This involved offering support and new system training to everyone involved to ensure the smoothest possible transition. Collaboration with the Tara automation team throughout the project also contributed to its success.

There was a lot at stake for Tara: For instance, if the upgrade had taken longer than the planned 24 hours, significant losses in production would have been unavoidable. And ProLeiT ran the risk of losing the trust of a long-standing customer. Ultimately, the overarching goal was to update all the software to a state-of-the-art level to meet in-house cybersecurity compliance standards and to make the facility secure for the future.



Interior view of production

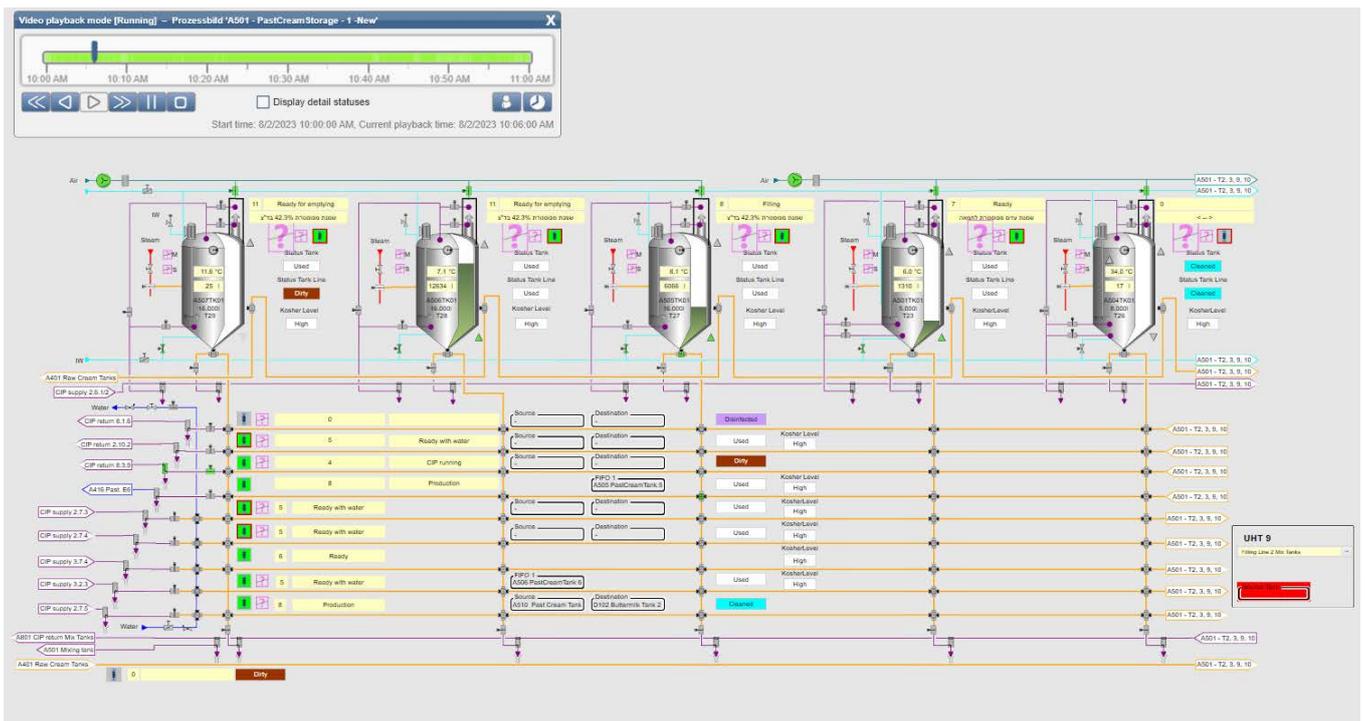
Timely migration of databases

Thanks to meticulous planning, downtime did not exceed the targeted 24 hours. “We were well prepared for all eventualities,” claims Tobias Meyer, the responsible project manager at ProLeiT. “To minimize potential errors and waiting times, not just our support and development team, but also a group of chosen Tara employees were on standby throughout the critical phase.” The primary challenge revolved around migrating the daily updated database to the new version without any errors as downtime commenced. To achieve this goal, the archive data were also available to ensure their direct accessibility on the updated infrastructure, thereby eliminating the need to retrieve them from the old server. “Moreover, we re-engineered all customer applications to ensure they run as usual on the new system,” explains Tobias Meyer. “Accordingly, we had to convert and implement the entire user code from Visual Basic to C#.”

Above all, meticulous planning played a key role in guaranteeing the seamless execution of the upgrade, leading to saved capacities on both sides and zero production losses. And to prevent any future losses, the capability to visualize past processes directly is still given thanks to the updated Visu Recorder. The Israeli dairy benefits from swift troubleshooting and issue resolution, which all leads to a considerable reduction in potential downtime. Plant iT V9 also has its own integrated process image designer, which can be used to adapt and distribute process images efficiently throughout the plant.

Latest level for outstanding cybersecurity

The actual goal was achieved with flying colors: Seeing as the facility is now at the latest system level, it is adequately protected against potential cyber incidents. Consequently, its update capability is also ensured in the long term. The subscription purchased by Tara ensures continuous system updates, eliminating the need for additional license fees.



Screenshot of Plant Direct iT Visu-Recorder



The Tara factory team with the responsible ProLeiT project team.

Moreover, Tara benefits from increased operational reliability through the predictive support provided by ProLeiT: The implemented monitoring system monitors set limits and outputs an alarm in the unlikely event that something goes wrong. The 24/7 ProLeiT support is informed immediately, can take appropriate measures in good time and thus help effectively avoid downtime.

Excellent team play for optimized processes

The reason why the upgrade process went so smoothly is mainly due to the efficient and transparent cooperation offered by Tara. Throughout the approximately year-long project, meetings and training sessions were predominantly conducted remotely. As part of the process, the customer's key users were empowered to instruct other employees on how to use the new system. Shortly before the upgrade period, further intensive training was carried out at the customer's facility.

Ultimately, commissioning was executed by just four on-site employees with further expert support provided remotely. "We managed all the risks together," says Tara project manager Moti Mishali. "Communication remained completely transparent and ensured constant awareness of every project step. Tara is genuinely delighted with the upgrade. Further joint projects are already in the pipeline, incorporating all the advantages that ProLeiT offers through its in-house development and profound expertise in dairy operations."

SUCCESS STORY // DAIRY INDUSTRY // TARA DAIRY

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