

Vesa, WISA and FieldCare

Automation engineer Vesa Pitkäkangas plays a key role when UPM's Wisaforest pulp mill measures the condition of its field equipment using Neles FieldCare configuration and condition monitoring software. FieldCare is still being run in at the mill, and expectations are high.

The UPM Wisaforest pulp mill in Pietarsaari, Finland, manufactures pulp for several uses, for example, as raw material for paper bags and paper sacks. The mill built a new chemical recovery line a few years ago, which enhanced the mill's competitiveness and increased production by a third to 800,000 tonnes a year.

This made Wisaforest one of Europe's biggest and most cost-efficient pulp mills, and also a world-class mill in terms of energy efficiency and environmental performance.

The chemical recovery process was boosted with a Neles FieldCare system for the configuration of field equipment and condition monitoring. Prior to this, Wisaforest was already using FieldCare in both of its drying machines.

The FieldCare system is connected to some 1,700 valves and measurement devices. The drying machine field equipment communicates through Profibus, while the others communicate through HART.

The FieldCare system is embedded in the mill's metsoDNA automation system.

Important start-up assistance

FieldCare is also known to be useful in the testing of field equipment and valves before process start up, because FieldCare significantly reduces the time required for connection and configuration testing. This was proven once again before the start up of the Wisaforest chemical recovery line, the WISA 800 project.

"I believe that FieldCare's versatility will prove very useful to us



Automation engineer Vesa Pitkäkangas.

in future maintenance tasks. But we are still in the initial stages of this process! We have a lot of work ahead of us, for example, because alarm limits have not yet been defined for the valves. The better we do our groundwork, the more we will get out of the system. User training for comprehensive maintenance is still going on as well," says Vesa Pitkäkangas.

Metso Automation has organized intensive maintenance training sessions for Wisaforest's FieldCare users, and the most recent training session took place in March. The session reviewed the equipment stock and further familiarized participants with the system's properties, including historical information and diagnostics tools for the valves. Area supervisors have been able to log onto the servers and

the field equipment from their own workstations for some time now.

Lasting cooperation

Since last autumn, UPM Wisaforest and Metso Automation have been able to access the FieldCare system remotely. Using the system's automatic analysis and reporting tools, Metso Automation's experts have investigated the valves remotely and provided UPM Wisaforest with reports on valve behavior. This information has been used for the planning of valve maintenance during shutdowns. "The goal is that our own people will also participate in valve monitoring and thereby share expertise," says Vesa Pitkäkangas.

Vesa Pitkäkangas has been at UPM Wisaforest since 1987, first as an assembler and then as an engineer. Over the years, he has learned to trust Metso Automation's special expertise in dealing with disturbances and applications. Things run smoothly because support and equipment are available from the same supplier. ■



The FieldCare system is connected to approximately 1,700 valves and measurement devices, and is embedded in the mill's metsoDNA automation system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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