Continuous improvement

Looking into the future of the process control systems Freelance and System 800xA

Frankfurt, 18th June 2012 – On the occasion of this year’s Achema, ABB will present their high-performance process control systems, System 800xA und Freelance.

Freelance, the proven control system, which is widely appreciated by the chemical industry for its flexibility and robustness, will be updated in summer with a service pack correcting errors and a 64-bit variant, which no longer restricts the use of Windows 7. During the next years, Freelance will undergo far-reaching changes: a new controller family compatible with the existing controller types is under development. The standard software CBF (Control Builder F), an engineering tool, will be revised for easier configuration and more efficiency. In addition, the comprehensively revised version will offer state-of-the-art list handling.

At the ACHEMA, ABB will present Freelance using the high-performance workflow manager Batch with MES functionality in addition to the standard batch functionality - a solution excelling in good scalability. With more than 10,000 installations and 36,000 controllers worldwide, the success story of Freelance will continue.

ABB’s top-performing process control System 800xA has expanded ABB’s leading position in process control engineering with more than 8000 installations worldwide. The latest version 5.1 features improved operator efficiency, integration of electrical equipment and process automation, plant safety and asset management – these are the 4 key topics. Since this version was released two years ago, an impressive number of additional features has been added by means of so-called feature packs. Feature packs can be installed in operative systems without having to change the software version, which offers ABB customers the benefits of the new features without having to revise the complete software. Feature packs also make the use of the software maintenance program Sentinel particularly attractive.

State-of-the-art operating concepts focus on the operator providing him automatically with the relevant faceplates and make the time-consuming search or navigation obsolete. The new “tabbed navigation” feature provides fast and sophisticated navigation. A library of graphic elements and faceplates offers all the tools necessary for modern faceplate design. The operating concept also includes ergonomic control room furniture so that an environment can be created for efficient plant control with maximum safety. In cooperation with manufacturers of control room furniture and control room design studios, ABB engineers are developing the operation workplace of the future. The “extended operator workplace” (EOW), which will be presented at the Achema in Frankfurt, is a first glimpse into the future of high-performance human machine interfaces (HMI).
The objective of tapping unused system potentials inevitably leads to an integral approach for electrical equipment and process automation. The latest feature pack including typicals for the representation of electrical equipment facilitates the implementation of IEC 61850. The steadily increasing number of integrated installations proves the benefits of this approach.

Today's plant safety requires both protection from abnormal process conditions by means of certified system components and protection against attacks from the web. Whereas through the use of high integrity, SIL 3 certified controllers plant safety reaches an unsurpassed degree of integrity on the market, the software integrity plays a decisive role already during the development of ABB control systems. Prior to the release of a software revision, comprehensive tests with Achilles, MU8000 and Nessus are conducted and security products, such as Industrial Defender are used.

Where equipment or asset management is concerned, ABB is pushing development activities to be able to offer appropriate products when the FDI (field device integration) standard is passed. ABB relies on this standard as a common evolution of FDT and DDL device descriptions for a future-proof, simplified and safe device management. Already today, system 800xA device management is used for plant-wide diagnosis and configuration of field devices. Moreover it is compatible with the new standard.

In future, System 800xA will gain even more importance as collaboration platform. In the numerous industries where the System 800xA DCS is already in operation, the trend goes predominantly toward the integration of various plant units. Ever more systems of different plant sections will be linked. Operator crews too will have to monitor larger plant sections and must be able to intervene at any time, if necessary. The latest feature pack supports state-of-the-art communication technology, such as iPad and tablet PCs. That way, mobile devices can directly display faceplates of the control system. 800xA Batch, too was expanded with the latest feature pack. Simplified recipe creation in the form of lists and performance improvements particularly for Freelance-based controllers are the main features of this pack.

Pictures:
PM03_Achema2012_DCS_1.jpg: The performing System 800xA proofs the leading position of ABB in the global process control market with more than 8000 installation worldwide

PM03_Achema2012_DCS_2.jpg: The proven control system Freelance is rather widespread in the chemical industry because of its flexibility and compact design.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enables utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 130,000 people.

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