Case Study

Wessex Water turned to Astec Solutions to migrate the SCADA (Supervisory, Control and Data Acquisition) system at its Avonmouth site to the current GE Intelligent Platforms Proficy iFIX platform

Wessex Water

"Our existing SCADA system was reaching the end of its useful life and becoming costly to maintain.

Astec's migration to iFIX was the best solution for Wessex Water. We gained the system upgrade and additional functionality we required without the long lead time, disruption and retraining that would be required for a new system, for a much reduced cost."

David Barritt, Principal Engineer Automation, Wessex Water

Background

Wessex Water is the regional water and sewage treatment business serving an area in the south-west of England, covering 10,000km2 including Dorset, Somerset, Bristol, most of Wiltshire and parts of Gloucestershire and Hampshire.

Recognised by the water industry regulator, OfWat, Wessex Water is one of the most efficient water and sewerage companies in England and Wales; a position it is keen to maintain.

Wessex Water is committed to giving all its customers excellent standards of service by providing high quality water and environmental services that protect health, improve the environment and give customers good value for money.

Achieving both regulatory and commercial objectives is dependent on efficient, effective and reliable systems infrastructure.

Wessex Water chose to utilise Astec's experience and standing as the UKs only Premier Solutions Provider for GE Intelligent Platforms to migrate its legacy software.

M32 Legacy software

Wessex Water had been managing its operations at its Avonmouth site using the Mitsubishi MX32 OEM version of the Intellution FIX32 product for many years. MX32 has not been further developed since 1999, leaving Wessex Water no direct upgrade route to any current Mitsubishi product.

The legacy MX32 system, at times, presented a few challenges for Wessex Water. The alarm system could sometimes stall and as this system is a crucial component for any regulated environment Wessex Water immediately looked into another reliable system.
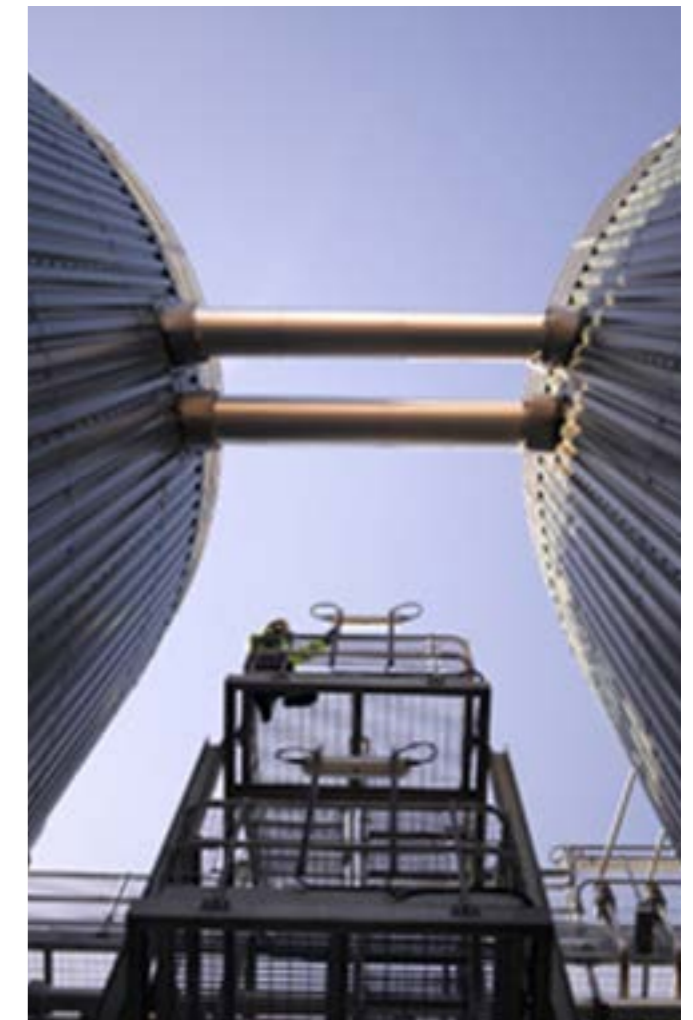

System Investigation

Astec performed a thorough system investigation of the MX32 SCADA Server and View nodes, including custom database blocks and other bespoke modules, to ensure that all functionality was capable of being migrated. The system fed into a Microsoft Access database, which could be retained and upgraded in the future.

System Migration

Astec used their advanced version of the standard iFIX migration tools to ensure that the user interfaces had the same appearance as the original screens and keyboard shortcuts operated in the same way, negating the need for operator retraining.

Historical pen groups were also migrated although modified to use the new version of Proficy Historian software to archive data and provide trending functionality for reporting.

Additional Features

Wessex Water also required some additional features that included:

- Redundant server configuration of two SCADA nodes operating as a duty and standby pair using the iFIX SCADA Synchronisation option
- Proficy WebSpace configuration to enable remote users to access the system and view the iFIX mimics via Internet Explorer.

Wessex Water have benefited from a software package that is still being developed and supported and is compatible with the latest operating systems and computer hardware, thus reducing its customers' liability should the current system suffer a software or hardware failure.

The project was delivered successfully, on time and on budget, extending the life of the original MX32 SCADA system which continues to offer exceptional Total Cost of Ownership.

Background

Astec Solutions strives to improve operational effectiveness and profitability for clients by delivering specialist management and monitoring IT solutions.

As the most experienced UK Premier Solution Partner for GE Digital, Astec has delivered software solutions into Consumer Packaged Goods, Pharmaceutical and Food & Beverage markets for over 15 years.

Astec employ a team of high calibre individuals who fully understand business IT solutions. Each team member is a Microsoft Certified Professional with a true software engineering background.

Solutions

Astec's unrivalled product experience and expertise enables clients to optimise their software investment, with a range of solutions which support existing implementations or new functionality development.

- Process Control & SCADA
- Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES)
- Batch Execution
- Management Information Systems (MIS)
- Network Management Systems
- Data Analysis & Reporting
- Supply Chain Integration
- Energy Management Systems
- iBroadcast Network Management System
- FIX32 Migration

Further Information

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