



Omniflex adds gloss to Dulux Vendor Managed Inventory

Improved Inventory management directly by vendors has resulted in improved plant efficiency at Dulux Paints.



AkzoNobel



When Dulux wanted to improve their inventory management at their Durban factory and give direct access to on-site inventory status to vendors, they chose an advanced Data2Desktop® data monitoring solution from Omniflex.

About Dulux

Dulux is one of the world's leading premium paint brands. Dulux (Pty) Ltd in South Africa is a wholly owned subsidiary of AECI Limited, one of the leading industrial groups in Southern Africa. Dulux has a marketing and technology support agreement with ICI Paints, owner of the Dulux brand in most countries and the world's largest decorative paint company.

With its stated commitment to securing world-class technology, Dulux strive for technologically superior and innovative systems that are at the forefront of the decorative surface coatings industry.

The Challenge

As part of a strategy to improve plant efficiency, Dulux needed to provide direct control to vendors in the management of bulk chemical supply and on-site storage.

Dulux required the monitored information to be made available to vendors so they could monitor at any point in time and from any location.

The Solution

Omniflex provided a solution based around their Data2Desktop® service, where the data from the on-site storage tanks on the Dulux site is made available to the vendors over the Internet using conventional browsers.

Twelve Vendors are connected to the system some of whom are based in Europe. Login rights for the individual vendors are managed by Dulux so that multiple users only have access to their relevant data.

The monitored parameters are also logged at the Data2Desktop Data Centre so that trends can be viewed with reference to time and in conjunction with other monitored parameters.

Alarms are sent to selected vendor personnel via SMS and or email if out of limit conditions are detected at the data centre.

The system extracts data from a Siemens S7 PLC via a Profibus Network which is currently used to monitor the tank levels on site to a SCADA. The Omniflex Data2Desktop RTU collects the levels associated with the 63 Tanks on site and displays the information for the Vendors who through separate logins have rights to the system.

Dulux administration and procurement personnel also monitor the tank status via the Data2Desktop site as the convenience of simply using an internet browser to view the status of supply chemicals keeps

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Project Engineer - Dulux



them well informed of supply status and usage trends.



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The Result

Gordon Davey, Dulux Project Engineer, had this to say:

“This technology is amazing – we knew it existed but we had no idea how easy it was to configure and use.

Our buyers are able to see tank levels and get a trend of usage over time which is impossible with our conventional inventory control systems.

Our vendors now also have access to the same information and we are pre-empting shortages and improved our efficiency“

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