Case Study

Shell Lubricants' replacement alarm annunciator from Omniflex slips in smoothly.

When Shell Lubricants decided to upgrade their major process alarm systems, downtime was critical, so they chose Omniflex experience and technology.

Geoff Roberts, Engineering Technician at Shell with Ian Southerton from Omniflex, during system handover.

"The whole project was a great success, on time, on budget with no issues"

Geoff Roberts
Engineering Technician - Shell Lubricants

When Shell Lubricants in the UK needed to replace an ageing process alarm system with SIL certified technology, they chose Omniflex to engineer a replacement solution based upon the state-of-the-art Omni16R annunciator system with minimal downtime by not disturbing existing plant cabling.

About Shell Lubricants

Shell Lubricants, part of Royal Dutch Shell, is the number one lubricants supplier globally, and manufactures and manages a diverse range of products for transport and industry.

Shell Lubricants are passionate about cutting-edge technology and innovation, and operate leading research centres in Germany, Japan, UK and the US.

Stanlow Refinery, UK

The new Omni16R Alarm System

The Challenge

Keeping a manufacturing process safe is a critical factor in running a successful process plant.

Ageing plants can put people and the environment at risk by relying on old alarm systems that no longer meet current safety requirements, or are no longer able to be maintained.

Replacing such systems can be costly due mainly to the plant downtime incurred during system change-over.

Shell Lubricants in Stanlow UK needed to replace their ageing RIS AN5100 alarm system that contained 560 process alarms, but were very concerned about plant downtime.

The brief was to replace the existing system without the need to touch field wiring or plant drawings.

The Solution

Omniflex engineered a replacement solution based upon their SIL certified Omni16R rack based alarm annunciator.

Special terminal boards were constructed to interface with the existing plant cabling to ensure the minimum of disruption during change-over.

Ten Omni16R annunciator racks were fitted into the original RIS panels further reducing the cost and risk during of the change out.

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Some of the old and new annunciator systems during the change over process performed while the plant was still operational.

The Result

Geoff Roberts, Engineering Technician said *"I felt totally confident from the start working with the Omniflex engineers that the system would be designed and installed correctly, and they did not let me down."*

"The level and content of documentation provided was excellent which far outweighed our original expectation."

"Installing the new system enabled us to tidy the alarm fascias in the control rooms, making the whole system more efficient."

The new Omniflex system also now provides Shell with an Ethernet link to their SCADA system so that alarms can be logged.

The Omni16R rack based alarm annunciator.

"I was very impressed with the ease with which the system was installed while the plant was still operational"

Alan Hulse
Engineering Technician
Shell Lubricants.

"The initial challenge of replacing an old alarm system without changing any of the field wiring was daunting, but the new Omniflex system was designed and installed by their engineers seamlessly, to utilise the same racks and existing wiring without any issues at all"
said Connor Campbell,
Regional Engineer – Shell.

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