

Plant Floor

Knowledge is Power—Bringing productivity and profitability together is the ultimate goal of every manufacturer. In order to bring those two together you need the proper knowledge in place, from the top floor, all the way to the shop floor. Honeywell Industry Solutions, Phoenix, Ariz., may just have the answer to really turn knowledge into power.

For manufacturers, the playing field is changing at a rapid pace. As demands from customers are constantly evolving, more importance is placed on quicker response times and the quality and efficiency with which those changes are made.

To make these changes impact the bottomline, having the right knowledge, as well as the ability to use that knowledge effectively across the entire enterprise is critical to any manufacturing environment.

Honeywell believes through the use of its knowledge-based solution, productivity and profitability can finally become a reality for manufacturers worldwide.

Its offering is called Experion PKS, an integrated platform that is part of Honeywell's complete Process Knowledge Solution. Simply it is being touted as the distributed control systems (DCS) for the information age, which combines industrial domain expertise, advanced technologies, and the methodologies of Six Sigma to manage process knowledge.

"The application of technology drives results," says Peter Zornio, director of product marketing at Honeywell Industry Solutions. "We are closing the gap on business control, while reducing inventory and costs."

Used in industrial plants and mills to integrate, control, and monitor complex processes across a broad range of industrial settings, Experion PKS combines business management, advanced control and optimization, operations management, process management, and field management under one unified infrastructure. Empowering employees to make better decisions, which will lead to increased profitability and efficiency is the promise from PKS, and the platform, Experion, allows that to happen.

Experion PKS connects employees with the latest technology, while connecting them to each other. The end result enables users to turn this information into a competitive advantage. The concept seems simple enough, but why has it taken so long for something like this to get accomplished?

"Basically, in the past we haven't had the architecture to allow this to happen," says Zornio. "Anytime you wanted to move information within your organization it was an engineering exercise and you needed to make sure that the integration could happen."

This integration is made easier with the unified infrastructure that allows for plantwide connectivity made possible through the use of Microsoft's .NET technologies and the use of a Web browser as a standard interface across the plant. "It brings a more comprehensive sense of standards to allow for (better knowledge) to occur," explains Zornio.

Rounding out that unified infrastructure is Honeywell's integrated safety-system solution. Tightly integrated with Honeywell's Fail Safe Controller (FSC) safety system, Experion



PKS provides flexibility from the design to the safeguard of the company's processes. Having process-safety solutions integrated with process control solutions allows for improved safety and maintenance, increased plant availability, and operator effectiveness.

"Experion PKS offers a solution for customers to manage knowledge faster and easier to realize measurable profitability and productivity results. These results are based upon process knowledge solutions that are driven by decades of applied Honeywell technologies, customer relations, and innovative work processes," says Terry Sutter, president of Honeywell Industry Solutions

The key here seems to be knowledge with the ability to tie it all together. There is knowledge waiting to be unlocked from each piece of information on the plant floor. Working with it effectively, and most importantly, getting it to the right people, in the right timeframe, is the key to turning it into profit. The concept certainly isn't new, but it just seems a bit more attainable, packaged all nice and neat from Honeywell.