BASF | SIMATIC PCS MYEXPERT

Digital asset management with visibility down to the controller level

As one of the world's leading chemical companies, BASF operates a highly complex automation landscape spanning production sites around the globe, with thousands of hardware and software components supporting its operations. How has the global enterprise simplified, streamlined, and strengthened plant and asset management across its sites with **SIMATIC PCS myExpert?**

To ensure the reliable and cost-effective operation of approximately 120 SIMATIC PCS 7 distributed control systems throughout their entire lifecycle, BASF depends on accurate, up-to-date information about installed assets and system condition. For decades, inventory lists were created and maintained manually – a process that became increasingly time-consuming as the automation landscape continued to grow in size and complexity. Identifying affected components due to product discontinuations, newly discovered cybersecurity vulnerabilities, or migration projects often required extensive manual effort. Likewise, information about the system condition was typically available only during scheduled maintenance activities or through repetitive, labor-intensive on-site inspections. BASF therefore set out to establish a digital approach to plant and asset management and found the right solution in SIMATIC PCS myExpert – a platform specifically designed for process control systems from Siemens.



"Our goal was to **minimize manual effort** while maintaining an **up-to-date view of our installed base** at all times."

Veit Stooß
Automation manager, BASF

SIEMENS

A single platform for the entire plant lifecycle

With SIMATIC PCS myExpert, BASF chose a web- and cloud-based platform designed to connect all SIMATIC PCS 7 and SIMATIC PCS neo process control systems across the company over the long term. The platform enables local operations teams to monitor and manage their individual plants while providing central automation experts at BASF's Ludwigshafen headquarters with enterprise-wide visibility across all connected systems. As a result, BASF benefits from a centralized, digital approach to asset inventory and lifecycle management, complemented by continuous security monitoring and vulnerability alerts. The digital asset inventory provides a consistent data foundation for planning, operations, and modernization activities, while integrated lifecycle information supports the efficient planning of migrations, software updates, and hardware replacement programs.

> In the past, we had to manually review numerous spreadsheets to assess lifecycle issues. Today, we can identify affected systems with **just a few clicks and respond much more quickly**."
>
> **Ernst Matthies**
> Automation engineer, BASF

A key differentiator of SIMATIC PCS myExpert is its integrated health monitoring capability. It continuously monitors critical system parameters – including CPU, memory, and disk utilization – across servers, clients, peripheral- and controller-level components, providing early visibility into changes that could affect system performance. Trend analysis and configurable threshold alerts help identify potential issues before they impact plant operations. As a result, transparent status information and live data are now supporting predictive maintenance at BASF. SIMATIC PCS myExpert also brings greater transparency to BASF's service processes. Support requests for any connected plant can be created directly via the platform and submitted to Siemens. Users can track the status of each request online, providing both site-level and enterprise-wide visibility into service activities.

Greater visibility – faster response

With SIMATIC PCS myExpert, BASF has significantly improved the efficiency of its asset inventory management, reduced the time required to plan modernization projects, and streamlined strategic activities such as product recalls and lifecycle planning. Affected components can now be identified in just a few clicks. Cybersecurity-related information, including firmware versions and lifecycle data, is also readily available, allowing potential risks to be assessed much more quickly.

> Thanks to SIMATIC PCS myExpert, we can now identify affected system components **within minutes** and take **targeted action**."
>
> **Veit Stooß**
> Automation manager, BASF



Significant efficiency and cost benefits

The implementation of SIMATIC PCS myExpert enables BASF not only to achieve significant reductions in effort and costs for maintaining the asset inventory and for planning and executing maintenance, migration, and replacement activities, but also in service processes and contracts. The centralized and transparent data foundation reduces coordination efforts and improves collaboration between BASF and Siemens.

Built on a strong partnership

Close collaboration between BASF and Siemens has been a key success factor throughout the entire project. From the initial pilot phase through full-scale deployment, both teams worked closely together to define requirements in regular workshops. Customer feedback and enhancement requests continue to shape the solution roadmap, ensuring that SIMATIC PCS myExpert evolves in line with the needs of process operations at BASF.

> It was impressive to see **how quickly our requirements were taken on board** and implemented in the next version of SIMATIC PCS myExpert."
>
> **Ernst Matthies**
> Automation engineer, BASF

Next step: global rollout

BASF regards SIMATIC PCS myExpert not as a finished project, but as part of a long-term digitalization strategy. The platform will be rolled out to additional international sites and continuously expanded. The focus is on increased automation of inventory processes, enhanced analytics and alarm functions, and AI-driven support. Ultimately, SIMATIC PCS myExpert is expected to serve as the foundation for a digital twin of BASF's automation landscape, enabling more data-driven and predictive maintenance.

Siemens Digital Industries (DI) is an innovation leader in automation and digitalization. In close collaboration with partners and customers, DI drives the digital transformation in the process and manufacturing industry. With its Digital Enterprise portfolio, Siemens offers companies of all sizes end-to-end products, solutions and services for the integration and digitization of the entire value chain. Optimized for the specific requirements of each industry, the unique portfolio enables customers to increase their productivity and flexibility. DI is continuously expanding its portfolio through innovations and the integration of future technologies. Siemens Digital Industries is headquartered in Nuremberg and employs around 72,000 people worldwide.

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