

News Article



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BASF plc, Seal Sands hosted a Case Study of a new STAR (Shift Tracking Action Recording) application developed by Camtique Ltd & BASF IT Services.

Camtique Ltd and BASF IT Services jointly developed STAR, a production communication and shift handover application. Although based on an initial concept by Camtique, they are now working together to sell the solution to other organisations that operate with shift teams. The STAR application is also transferable to organisations where remarks, instruction and information are communicated between the workforce and the supporting management team.

Case Study Event

The Case Study Event hosted at the BASF plc, Seal Sands site attracted over 40 guests from the process industry sector, including chemical, pharmaceutical, industry gas and engineering and consulting companies.

Phil Stevens, Engineering Services Manager, BASF plc Seal Sands who was the sponsor of the Project at BASF, opened the event and presented some of the benefits that the Seal Sands site has seen since the introduction of STAR in April this year. Phil Stevens, said, "Although it is difficult to attribute monetary values to the time saved by making efficient and effective communication,

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the estimated benefits are about £250k per year. Even though these figures are not precise, the savings easily justify the project to develop and implement the STAR solution”.

Andrew Poole, Process Industry Consultant, BASF IT Services, then demonstrated the key features of STAR, followed by discussions and question and answer session led by Ian Paddock, Operations Director, Camtique Ltd, Phil Stevens, Andrew Poole and Ian Scott, Process Co-ordinator, BASF plc. The topics covered during the session included:

- The commercial availability of STAR
- The potential for a STAR user community
- The management of equipment breakdowns and
- The potential for integration with other systems such as SAP and production information systems.

UK Trade and Investment sponsored the event with advertising by the Institute of Operations Management (IOM), North East Process Industry Cluster (NEPIC), Yorkshire Chemical Focus (YCF), Humber Chemical Focus (HCF) and the Chemical Industries Association (CIA).

The STAR project team, comprising of employees from BASF plc, Camtique Ltd and BASF IT Services were delighted with the response from the case study event. Participants gave positive feedback and valuable remarks about potential additional functionalities in subsequent developments.

How STAR works at BASF plc, Seal Sands



STAR was introduced in the BASF plc, Seal Sands site's production control rooms in April 2006 when it replaced the paper based logging system. Ian Scott, BASF plc Nylon Intermediates Process Co-ordinator, commented that "The original plan was to run STAR and the old paper systems in parallel for several days. However, at the end of the first day

the Production Technicians in the control room decided STAR presented no problems and the use of old system was immediately stopped".

About 17,000 documents per year will no longer be paper based, however, this is not a totally paper free system. In fact structured reports along with other modules are an essential part of the STAR solution which include:

Shift Log: entries are typically made about the equipment by the production shift teams.

Instructions: the production support team makes instructions such as preparing equipment for maintenance work. The shift team can state that the action is complete.

Information log: entries are made for example about production rates or a site road closure.

Shift handover Report: The out going shift produces the 'Shift Handover Report', which is used as a knowledge transfer medium to communicate to the incoming shift, the current status of the plant at the point of handover.

Production Technicians access STAR via shared PCs in the plant control rooms, so it is simple to switch between users. Every new log entry, instruction or piece of information and every update requires the user to enter their user name and password. Once the entry is committed to the database it cannot be modified, it can only be updated.



STAR can be accessed by any PC on the BASF plc, Seal Sands network, from home or on business trips, all the information is readily visible, traceable and searched easily.

The STAR Project team were pleased with the response, the level of buy-in and enthusiasm from the Production Technicians and the Production Support Teams.

For further information about STAR or for a copy of the Case Study

Please contact Andrew Poole, BASF IT Services (andrew.poole@basf-it-services.com) or Ian Paddock, Camtique Ltd (ianpaddock@camtique.co.uk)

Notes for Editors:

BASF plc at Seal Sands is part of BASF AG, a transnational chemical company. At Seal Sands BASF produces acrylonitrile, adiponitrile and hexamethylenediamine, which are used in the production of acrylic and nylon fibres for clothing and carpets, together with a range of acrylic and nylon plastics for the domestic, engineering and motor industries.

BASF is the world's leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products, agricultural products and fine chemicals to crude oil and natural gas. As a reliable partner to virtually all industries, BASF's intelligent system solutions and high-value products help its customers to be more successful. BASF develops new technologies and uses them to open up additional market opportunities. It combines economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility, thus contributing to a better future. BASF has approximately 94,000

employees and posted sales of more than €42.7 billion (approximately \$50.4 billion) in 2005. Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at www.basf.com.

BASF IT Services: Using IT to boost process efficiency

BASF IT Services, a BASF Group company, is among the leading IT service providers for the process industry in Europe. It had some 2,300 employees and recorded an annual turnover of €364 million in 2005. The company's key strengths are industry solutions, managed infrastructure services and business process outsourcing. This expertise is based on years of experience in providing solutions to the world's leading chemical company, BASF. Today, BASF IT Services operates one of the world's largest networks and around 2,000 servers for some 60,000 users in more than 280 locations. The company, which is represented throughout Europe, is committed to standardising and developing customer-orientated, tailor-made solutions. BASF IT Services is certified under the international quality management standard ISO 9001:2000 and the ISO 27001.

More information about BASF IT Services at www.basf-it-services.com.

About Camtique - The Company

Camtique is a solutions provider that specialises in best practice business processes and software solutions that are specifically designed for the Process Industry. Camtique provides its clients with a full suite of services encompassing: business strategy, project management, solution design, and project implementation, all of which enable the client organisation to maintain competitiveness through the implementation of technological advances.