

Nynas is the first to install the integrated software

SDA releases new terminal management system

Sweden-based software developer SDA launched its latest terminal management system in October 2008.

When the company looked at the industry a couple of years ago it found that many players on the market either focused on hardware or software, rather than an integrated system.

As a result SDA developed a new system called XCON, which is developed using a modern and open platform including Visual C#, .NET Framework, SQL Server and Crystal Reports and has a Client-server architecture based on ISA-95 industry standard.

Swedish bitumen supplier Nynas is the first company to use the system.

Features

Some of the base features in the system are handling data of products, storage, transport companies, vessels/trucks, customers and deliveries.

Product specifics, parameters such as temperature, density, viscosity etc, are dealt with in the built-in configurable formulas to, for example; acquire an accurate weight during a loading. Configurable tank specific parameters like geometric properties form also a base for a correct storage inventory.

XCON can directly interact with the automation system to get active data from sensors such as tank radar, flow meters and the scales.

The system also includes features as flexible recipe handling, order and contract management, key financial data, invoicing for deliveries, advanced search capabilities and statistics generation. Notifications like low level warnings of a tank can automatically be distributed via E-mail, SMS or to another clients, and is also presented in the built-in event list.

XCON is transaction



Source: Nynas/Johannes Berner

Truck loading of bitumen for asphalt production at Nynas in Gothenburg, Sweden

based with extensive user logging for traceability.

Built-in reports for all registers comprise (base data), transactions and controlled invoice print outs. Reports can also be customised for the end user. All registers can also be exported to XML files.

Planning and logistics

XCON is an order-based terminal automation system and when taking advantage of this functionality the users can achieve full control of the business chain, efficient planning of resources and cashflow, and just-in-time functionality regarding storage balance and planned activities.

It can open up for forecasting and preordering directly from the end user via a prognosis interface which makes early

warning signs easy and prevents the user from over/under stock of its products.

Client terminal interface

XCON can be run in almost any IT-environments using PCs and wireless units (ex. Windows Mobile PDAs).

The client terminal interface for loading and unloading of ships and trucks is straight forward graphically to ensure safe operations. The user logs in to the system with a username and password, or optionally by exposing a RFID badge in front of a RFID reader in combination with password or other means of identification. Available orders/products or operations are then displayed for selection. XCON for PDAs can in many situations be used in favour for checking

actual storage status, in- and outgoing deliveries, manual inventories/registrations, signing off deliveries or to acquire real time data from the automation system.

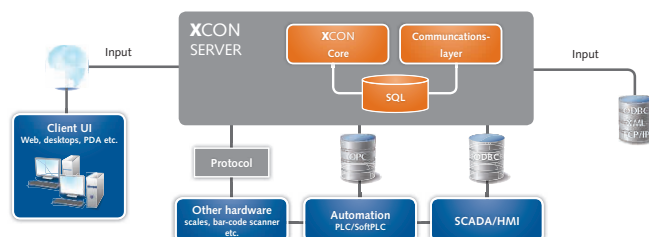
Bridging the gap

XCON is designed with the ability to interact with any SCADA system and other automation equipment (ex. PLC) via OPC, ODBC or different protocols. Typical use could be to register tank levels, temperatures, critical alarms / events, weights from scales or to download different setpoints for the automation or recipe parameters for mixing.

A user can keep its current SCADA / automation system and deploy XCON as a MES / Terminal management system on top, and interact with the company's ERP system.

XCON can also be deployed as an independent /standalone supply chain management system without any connections to either automation or ERP system. ●

System architecture



For more information:

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