



Yokogawa's 5th European User Conference - Operational Excellence, Technology Partnerships and New Wireless Developments

Yokogawa Europe B.V.
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The 5th Yokogawa User Conference and Automation Fair, held in the Netherlands from the 22nd to 25th June 2010, attracted a total of 150+ delegates from 15 countries and featured contributions from many of the leading worldwide players in the oil & gas, petrochemical, pharmaceutical and power industries. Yokogawa also used the conference as a launching pad for the company's new generation of wireless products based on the ISA100.11a standard.

Two venues

For the first time in the history of the Yokogawa User Conferences, which have been held every two years in different European cities since the first event in 2002, the event was held across two venues: the Novotel in Amsterdam and Yokogawa's new European headquarters in Amersfoort.

The conference is organised by a Steering Committee with the aim of providing a platform to facilitate, stimulate, and optimise the transfer of information for the mutual benefit of Yokogawa's end users, and ultimately the Yokogawa organisation. For the 2010 event, the Steering Committee was instrumental in selecting the theme 'The benefits of Operational Excellence', and topics covered in the conference reflected organisational and human aspects of the automation sector as well as technical presentations. As the Committee's Chairman, Robert Ytsma of Kisuma Chemicals, commented: "As users we are confronted more and more with safety in our plants, an aging workforce, upgrading and migration, network security and the urge to apply continuous improvements in overall efficiency and productivity, all key business drivers. During the conference, users are able to learn and share experiences of how to apply Yokogawa's VigilantPlant solutions and their business partners' expertise in dealing with these challenges."

The current business climate was referred to by the President of Yokogawa Europe B.V., Harry Hauptmeijer, in his opening address: "Following the Lehman collapse more than two years ago, prospects for 2009 were bleak. In fact we found ourselves in the worst recession in 80 years. It has been a difficult time for everyone in the industry. Recovery will come, but it is difficult to predict when and in what form. Yokogawa has taken measures to safeguard investor's interests, the support of our customer's delivery and quality metrics and the company's employees. Recent events have strongly impacted the business operations and have forced companies to make optimum use of their assets, and Yokogawa's VigilantPlant solutions, supported by our Business Partners, are helping our customers to deal with these challenges and meet their business targets while ensuring safe operations and regulatory compliance."



Delegates arriving at Yokogawa's European headquarters in Amersfoort



A busy conference session at the Amsterdam Novotel

Keynote speakers

Keynote speakers included:

- Dr. Werner Kreuz of A.T.Kearney, whose presentation was entitled 'Is operational excellence the key to success and to competitiveness for European Companies?'. Using information from a comprehensive study his organisation has carried out on the secrets of successful companies and nations, he showed how the concepts of Operational Excellence can be utilised to optimise an organisation's performance, and made some interesting predictions about the state of global business in 20 years' time.
- Dr. André Overmeyer of Merck Serono gave a presentation subtitled 'Two company histories, three languages, four cultures', which described how his company with its diverse multilingual workforce had successfully implemented a large-scale biotech production plant in Vevey, Switzerland, incorporating two production lines with separated DSP suites along with new buildings and site infrastructure including clean rooms, waste water treatment and energy and water supplies. The control system includes around 12,000 I/O points, three Yokogawa Centum VP systems and 2300 Foundation Fieldbus devices.
- David Godinaud of Saint-Gobain Glass described how to drive engineering improvement through a DCS excellence programme, with particular emphasis on how his company has worked with Yokogawa as a Global Alliance Partner to implement DCS systems throughout Saint-Gobain's production facilities worldwide. He placed great emphasis on the management and human aspects of the relationship, with particular reference to the benefits that have accrued from using a standardised approach, and used an iceberg analogy to show how DCS improvements can have an impact throughout an organisation.
- Mervyn Currie of BP gave a presentation entitled



Joost van Loon presents the Yokogawa road map during the opening session of the User Conference

- 'Safety always No.1' which, in addition to describing implementation of Safety Instrumented Systems throughout his organisation, focused on the safety culture that is adhered to within BP. In particular, he emphasised the commitment from the top of the organisation, a culture that promotes safety and does not tolerate unsafe practices, and the commitment of the necessary resources and people.
- Tim Cook of Shell talked about Shell's approach to technical training to solve current and future business needs. He covered the subject comprehensively from training and learning needs analysis, through the ways of closing competence gaps, skills assessment, to the future landscape of learning.



Demonstrations at the Automation Fair at Yokogawa's Amersfoort headquarters

Other speakers included Yokogawa personnel presenting some of the latest developments within the company, and users outlining their experience of implementing projects using Yokogawa solutions. There were also a number of workshops and breakout sessions covering a variety of topics.

Automation Fair

The Automation Fair, held in the Yokogawa European headquarters at Amersfoort, covered the concept of VigilantPlant for safe, reliable and profitable plant operations, and featured Yokogawa's solutions in the form of Safety Excellence, Asset Excellence and Production Excellence. Yokogawa's Business Partners mounted their own individual displays to show their own contributions to each of these sectors.

Yokogawa Automation Fair: Business Partners

Safety Excellence

- MTL Instruments Group: Safe access to all areas
- Pepperl & Fuchs GmbH: Protecting your process
- Phoenix: Interfaces
- Stahl: Hazardous area systems and solutions

Asset Excellence

- Badotherm: Instrumentation
- Wika: Instrumentation
- Parker Hannifin plc, Instrumentation Products Division: Instrumentation
- Hamilton Bonaduz AG: Asset Excellence through integrated intelligence
- Dresser Valves Europe: VIP Vigilant Integrated Partner
- Samson AG: VIP Vigilant Integrated Partner
- Flowserve: VIP Vigilant Integrated Partner
- Metso Automation Inc., Field Systems: VIP Vigilant Integrated Partner

Production Excellence

- Cisco: Network solutions
- Sick Maihak: Analyser solutions
- Hirschmann: Specialist products for automation and networking technology

Wireless launch

A major feature of the 5th European User Conference was the launch of Yokogawa's field wireless devices based on the ISA100.11a industrial wireless communications standard. These wireless products include an EJX-B series differential pressure and pressure transmitter, a YTA series temperature transmitter, and an integrated field wireless gateway which connects field wireless devices with a host system and provides a number of field wireless network setting and management functions in field sensor networks.

These field wireless devices are expected to satisfy a wide variety of requirements in the industrial automation field. To help companies achieve ever higher levels of productivity, Yokogawa will continue to develop various kinds of field wireless devices for both monitoring and control applications, and is also proposing the development of new field digital networks that integrate wireless and wired technologies.

At an international press conference held in the Amersfoort headquarters, Joost van Loon, Director of Industrial Automation for Yokogawa Europe B.V., emphasised the benefits of wireless technology for field device and control system applications, including the reduction in wiring and engineering costs, the ability to install field devices in difficult-to-wire locations, and improvements in plant safety through the use of low-cost online device diagnostics.



Wireless based field instruments and gateway based on the ISA100.11a standard

"Despite such benefits, wireless networks have seen limited use to date in industrial automation applications due to their requirement for advanced technologies that ensure high reliability, real-time response, environmental resistance, and explosion-proof protection, and because of the absence until recently of an industrial communications standard for field wireless devices", said van Loon. "Now, however, we have the ISA100.11a standard."

Approved in September 2009, the ISA100.11a standard presents the following advantages for use in industrial automation:

1. High reliability
2. Suitable for a wide range of applications
3. Improved flexibility and network expandability
4. High compatibility with existing wired systems

Following approval by ISA and ANSI, this standard will be published and submitted for the review of the IECSC65C Subcommittee of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

These new field wireless devices based on the ISA100.11a standard fully complement Yokogawa's measurement, control, and information solutions and are expected to make a significant contribution to the realisation of the company's VigilantPlant concept of the ideal plant. This new technology will help Yokogawa's customers "See clearly, know in advance, and act with agility". Yokogawa will continue to seek out solutions that secure its customers an optimum return on their investment throughout the plant lifecycle.

Wireless product concept

Yokogawa's wireless products are suitable for monitoring, diagnostics, and control. With bidirectional digital wireless networks based on the ISA100.11a standard, the production, device diagnostic, and parameter data transferred between a control system and field devices are securely encrypted. This wireless technology is ideal for status monitoring, device diagnostics, and control applications.

These wireless devices are also designed to run on explosion-proof batteries that can easily be replaced in hazardous locations. Yokogawa also plans to develop easy-to-maintain solar batteries for use with these devices.

"As a partner with its customers, Yokogawa is always looking to develop new technology solutions while working to ensure full compatibility with customer's current assets, thus protecting their investment", said van Loon: "These products were designed with this requirement in mind."

Yokogawa continues to fulfil its commitment to providing unsurpassed leading edge solutions to industry. Reliable, secure, flexible, and intuitive, our new wireless transmitters simplify all aspects of wireless deployment, management, and operation while delivering the excellence that users have come to expect from Yokogawa products. Yokogawa plans to provide a trial kit that will allow customers to experience the advantages of Yokogawa wireless products.