

OSIsoft European User Group October 2008 – Amsterdam, Netherlands



OSIsoft RtWebParts and DataLink to Microsoft Excel Services WebPart¹.

The 2008 OSIsoft User Group was attended by around 650 professionals including some 100 OSIsoft personnel (about 1/6th of the company's workforce). Attendees make up a 'broad church' including water, chemicals, oil and gas and pharmaceuticals. But despite the diversity, these companies share much technology and are confronted by many similar issues. In particular the problem of integrating legacy (and even new) control systems with information technology and the business network. Contrary to some received views, the state of the art in the IT/control system stakes is less about control than about data. Hence the position of the PI System as the focal point of plant and IT systems integration. IT in the plant is about monitoring and recording historical data. This is linked to maintenance management systems, to ERP and compared with model data and other analytical tools. The cross-industry theme is – get the data infrastructure in place, then you can start optimizing. But the big loop – back to optimize the plant – is currently performed off line by talking to equipment manufacturers and the plant's designers and operators.

Another commonality is the growing popularity of Microsoft's supporting applications – SharePoint with its WebParts and OSIsoft's own RtWebParts. OSIsoft has strategic partnerships with Microsoft and SAP along with an 'ecosystem' of DCS vendors, systems integrators and application developers. Client presentations from Shell, Total showed how the new PI System 'Analysis Framework' (AF) is being used to expose PI System data for consumption and analysis. Total's Field Monitoring program is an opportunistic application combining AF and Microsoft's BizTalk workflow management system. Shell's approach is to build an across the board PI-based information infrastructure into which current and future applications will connect with web services. Others like RasGas, NiSource and NAM showed how they continue to leverage their investment in SCADA, DCS and the ubiquitous PI System.

Outside of Oil and Gas, we report on Xcel Energy's involvement in 'Smart Grid City' a.k.a. Boulder, Colorado, where high tech electricity metering is allowing individual households to optimize energy use. A keynote from Bayer Materials Science described how PI is being deployed as the foundation of Bayer's enterprise infrastructure.

Finally, for those concerned about control system security in the context of 'deperimeterization,' we report on a product from Waterfall Technologies that offers a compelling solution to the secure integration of control systems with IT.

¹ Image courtesy Microsoft – www.microsoft.com/manufacturing.

Highlights

[RAS GAS LNG ICIM](#)
[Total's Field Monitoring](#)
[Saudi Aramco's 2 million tags](#)
[NAM 'OneGas' SCADA Replacement Project](#)
[Shell's Production Portal Architecture](#)
[Bayer's PI enterprise infrastructure](#)
[PI-Waterfall DCS/IT security](#)

Contents

TW0811_1	Introduction.....	3
TW0811_1.1	<i>The OSIsoft User Group – Peter Van Wordragen, OSIsoft</i>	3
TW0811_2	Keynote address – Pat Kennedy, OSIsoft founder and CEO	4
TW0811_3	Client Presentations	4
TW0811_3.1	<i>PI and process control – Maria Aniorte, Iberdrola</i>	4
TW0811_3.2	<i>RasGas' LNG integrated control and IM system – Sarah Al-Aqaily, RasGas</i>	5
TW0811_3.3	<i>Production Portal Architecture – Richard Coomber, Shell Global Solutions</i>	6
TW0811_3.4	<i>Microsoft in Manufacturing/Process and Saudi Aramco's 2 million tag PI System – Christian Roller, Microsoft</i>	7
Microsoft-supplied colateral	8	
TW0811_3.5	<i>PI in Gas Transmission and Storage – Nancy Shifflet, NiSource</i>	9
TW0811_3.6	<i>Total's Field Monitoring Program – Pierre-Henry Tincelin and Xavier Lacoux, Total</i>	10
TW0811_3.7	<i>'OneGas' NAM's SCADA replacement project – Theo Huizinga, Emerson Process Management</i>	12
TW0811_3.8	<i>Smart Grid City – Michael Lamb, Xcel Energy</i>	12
TW0811_3.9	<i>PI as the foundation of a Manufacturing Executive System – Felix Hanisch, Bayer Material Science</i>	12
TW0811_3.10	<i>Leveraging PI and Pimsoft in maintenance – Giorgio Conigliaro, ERG</i>	13
TW0811_4	OSIsoft Presentations.....	14
TW0811_4.1	<i>PI System Roadmap – Bodo Bachman and Jon Petersen, OSIsoft</i>	14
TW0811_4.2	<i>The Enterprise Agreement – Don Smith, OSIsoft</i>	14
TW0811_4.3	<i>Data Access and the new OPC Universal Architecture – Ray Verhoeff, OSIsoft</i>	14
TW0811_5	Panel Session – PI System Infrastructure – Moderator Gretchen Schwenger, OSIsoft	15
TW0811_6	Exhibitors.....	16
TW0811_6.1	<i>Transpara Visual KPI</i>	16
TW0811_6.2	<i>Smart Signal EPI Center</i>	17
TW0811_6.3	<i>PI-Waterfall security</i>	17
TW0811_7	The Data Room – Technology Watch subscription information	17

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This report is the result of The Data Room's attendance at the OSIsoft 2008 European User Group. The Data Room is entirely independent of OSIsoft and its partners. Following the conference, exhibitors were invited to contribute material for inclusion in this report which is financed by subscribers and contains no paid-for material. More on The Data Room's Technology Watch reporting service from www.oilit.com/tech or email tw@oilit.com. More on OSIsoft from www.osisoft.com.