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Automation despite Covid 19

Sulaymaniyah, Iraq – The upgrade of the polcid process control system at the TASLUJA cement plant of Farukholding group company was carried out successfully by remote service – a first for our colleagues from department Automation & Electrical Engineering. Travel restrictions imposed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic made it impossible to carry out the work face to face in situ as usual.

“Switching completely to remote was a real challenge for my team,” says Michael Gottschalk, Head of Automation. “It was clear to everyone that optimum preparation would be vital. So here at the Beckum Research Center we first ran through the complete system setup and functional testing in detail and installed the latest software.”

In parallel with this, our customer in Iraq replaced the hardware and ensured the new systems were ready for operation. The big day arrived on August 19, 2020: “We were all very nervous. Had we thought of everything, would the data link hold up? In the end there was relief all round: The upgrade and startup of the new control system via remote DSL link went without a hitch. The upgrade itself took a week, plus another week to train the customer’s staff.”

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thyssenkrupp built the two cement lines near the Iraqi city of Sulaymaniyah in 1985. They have a production capacity of 6,400 tpd. The poltakt control technology and the polcid[®] process control system were first modernized in 2005 and 2006 respectively. In 2019 the customer placed an order with thyssenkrupp Industrial Solutions, BU Cement Technologies for the next upgrade.



The bottom line: The polcid control system upgrade at the TASLUJA cement plant in Iraq is a further success for our remote services. Thanks to the trust of our customers, good organization and of course secure data links, BU Cement Technologies has already carried out several system startups and performance tests despite the coronavirus pandemic to keep customer projects on time.
