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Full data transparency thanks to horizontal and vertical integration

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After approval by the anti-trust authorities, ProLeiT AG, a provider of industrial automation, process control technology and Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES) for the Food and Beverage Industries has officially become part of Schneider Electric. This merger combines and expands the products, know-how and resources of both companies. Innovations and developments are driven forward and Schneider Electric confirms its strategic focus on holistic and software-supported automation by expanding its portfolio.

ProLeiT is headquartered in Herzogenaurach, Germany and operates globally in ten locations with over 500 employees worldwide. With the acquisition of the software manufacturer, Schneider Electric is gaining a company whose solutions and industry expertise will enable further market penetration, particularly in the consumer goods (CPG) and food & beverage (F&B) sectors. With the addition of the ProLeiT software portfolio, as part of the Digital Plant business, Schneider Electric's EcoStruxure Plant platform will be further enhanced to help drive digital transformation for customers by providing improved productivity and efficiency for both energy and process.

ProLeiT's Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES) and Process Control Systems (PCS), Plant iT and brewmaxx, are based on more than 30 years of technical expertise and in-depth industry knowledge. „We are pleased to become part of Schneider Electric with our team of experts“, says Wolfgang Ebster, CEO of ProLeiT AG. ProLeiT's software specifically addresses F&B industries such as breweries and dairies and will enhance the EcoStruxure platform by offering native connection to the Modicon programmable logic controllers and AVEVA software offers. For ProLeiT's customers, the acquisition means extended access to Schneider Electric components that create a holistic solution, including controllers, drives, networked measurement and control components, and complete low-voltage systems.

In this digital economy, software will play a leading role in the automation, optimization and management of industrial plants. Peter Herweck, Executive Vice President, Industrial Automation of Schneider Electric is convinced: „With the integrated expertise of Schneider Electric and ProLeiT, we will help our customers advance their digital transformation while driving increased productivity and efficiency. In addition, we are accelerating market penetration in the Consumer Packaged Goods and Food & Beverage segments, in particular breweries and dairies, with our holistic EcoStruxure architecture – now complemented by ProLeiT“.



Eckes-Granini Deutschland GmbH: Full data transparency thanks to horizontal and vertical integration

www.eckes-granini.de

Hohes C, Granini or Die Limo – Eckes-Granini brands are popular worldwide and exported to more than 80 countries. ProLeiT has been working closely with the leading European supplier of fruit juices and fruit-juice drinks since 2012. The latest successful joint project: Implementation of a continuous energy data acquisition project at two of Eckes-Granini's German plants in Bröl and Bad Fallingbostel.

The two plants have been operating with Plant iT V8.20 since 2014 – Eckes-Granini utilizes the process control system (PCS), the line management system (LMS) and the manufacturing execution system (MES) from ProLeiT for both horizontal and vertical integration. In spring 2018, the beverage manufacturer decided to implement a comprehensive energy data acquisition project. The aim: Eckes-Granini wanted to see in detail how much electricity, water, compressed air, steam, etc. is required to produce one bottle or carton of juice. This knowledge is then used to identify new potential for greater energy efficiency.

The project also involved installing additional energy meters throughout the plant. This was only possible thanks to the close cooperation with the respective employees on site and the efficient use of production downtime. One of the major challenges for

ProLeiT was to successively link the data from each measuring device with the data from the production orders. To this end, the ProLeiT add-on EnMS for energy data acquisition was implemented. The add-on forwards data from the corresponding meters of the entire process level to the MES.

Since not all the data can be recorded automatically via a corresponding meter connection, the ProLeiT system also enables the manual entry of meter readings. Other values, such as the comparative values of municipal utilities, are transferred to the EnMS by data import from csv files. To additionally allow a monetary evaluation of the production figures, ProLeiT enabled the recording of costs for electricity, gas, water, etc.

Since successful completion of the project in autumn 2019, Eckes-Granini in both Bröl and Bad Fallingbostel has enjoyed comprehensive production data for various analyses. For example, it is now possible to determine how much energy is actually required to produce 1000 one-litre bottles. Further, the energy consumption of various container sizes can be compared – even across various plants.

We would like to express our special thanks again for the excellent cooperation and look forward to many more joint projects in the future – for example, migration of the ProLeiT systems to Plant iT V9 .00 at the Bad Fallingbostel site this year.



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the best of fruit

HerzoBase: ProLeiT supports the innovative research project “HerzoBase Energy Storage Houses”

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The goal of the German Government to reduce heating requirements in residential properties by 20% by 2020 and to increase the share of renewable energies in the building sector places extensive demands on modern buildings in terms of their energy efficiency, CO2 emissions and quality of use. The said requirements can only be met with a coordinated concept that harmonizes both the building envelope as well as the building and system technology. The “HerzoBase” project of the Technical University of Nuremberg, which was developed in cooperation with the town of Herzogenaurach and several industry partners, including ProLeiT, therefore investigated the further development and optimization of passive and active building engineering components as well as their system integration into buildings.

The research project saw a town house complex with eight residential units constructed in Herzogenaurach between 2015 and 2018. The houses serve as a model project for a sustainable supply of energy for a residential area and were constructed in line with the

plus-energy home standard and new energy efficiency measures. Besides an innovative building technology, regenerative energy generation and progressive energy storage techniques, the buildings also incorporate highly heat insulating materials. This project is a further component of local politics in Herzogenaurach, in which the energy turnaround plays a central role. This commitment was already awarded the European Energy Award in Gold in 2017. The award is only given if a continuous improvement of energy policy work and the efforts of a municipality are measurable and visible regarding energy efficiency and climate protection.

In cooperation with the Friedrich-Alexander-University (FAU) Erlangen-Nuremberg, ProLeiT helped measuring energy efficiency through long-term archiving and provided support for recording energy values and connecting and controlling web monitoring. A three-year long-term monitoring project was launched in 2020 to find out whether the calculated values are actually achieved. The research results will then be transferred to other town house projects, single family homes and multi-dwelling buildings as well as small industrial businesses in the future.


