

Siemens ensures regulatory compliance and maximum protection at Petnet Solutions

At the Petnet Solutions' radiopharmaceutical drug manufacturing facility in Lisses, near Paris, Siemens has installed a building automation system that makes it possible for the company to control, monitor, evaluate and optimize all integrated technical and security systems and processes. Without stopping the production process under way, problems and alarms can be investigated from any touch screen PC within the building.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is an imaging technique that uses radioactivity in the diagnosis of disease. Before entry into a PET scanner, minute quantities of chemicals – called radiopharmaceuticals or radiotracers – are introduced into the body of the patient, either by intravenous injection or inhalation.

Part of Siemens Medical Solutions, Petnet Solutions operates the world's largest network of PET radiopharmaceutical drug manufacturing facilities and dispensing nuclear pharmacies. Petnet manufactures and dispenses PET drug products for hospitals, clinics and research facilities. Of course, doses need to meet all applicable standards for quality and purity – from production until the expiry date. Throughout more than fifty Petnet sites around the world, standardized equipment and processes ensure the necessary consistency.

To keep all staff and company assets safe from over-exposure to the radioactivity constantly present, PET radiopharmacies require special fire safety and security measures, such as continuous monitoring of background radioactivity levels. It is also important for the company to have a clear overview of all processes to keep operations efficient and to keep all processes secure. Competition in the industry is extremely fierce, so – from a more commercial standpoint – optimized processes and the highest availability of uninterrupted production are critical.

Integrated management platform

Even though the Lisses facility has a complex combination of an integrated life science solution and other building technology systems, it is still possible for a single solution to control and manage the whole building. The Siemens' user-friendly Desigo Insight management station controls, monitors, evaluates and optimizes the integrated processes. It gives Petnet Solutions the opportunity to view images from video surveillance cameras, to lock and unlock doors, and to monitor fire alarms, air quality and radioactivity levels from a single control panel.

Problems and alarms can be investigated remotely from touch panels. These are installed throughout the site, especially in the more critical locations, to ensure fast and simple access without leaving the room or interrupting the process taking place. The highest system availability is assured throughout the entire facility for Petnet's technical specialists who are safe in the knowledge that they and the facility itself are all well protected at all times. Consequently, the facility operates smoothly and reliably every day with no technical intervention whatsoever.

The on-going success of the Petnet Solutions' site in Lisses is attributable to various factors. These include the integrated life science solution, the cooperation between all parties concerned, Siemens' local technology experts and the fire safety and security systems that ensure reliable protection and system efficiency. As the intelligent interoperability of disciplines such as building automation, fire safety and security gives rise to even more functions depending on the requirements involved, all parts of the integrated solution were developed until they interacted smoothly, tested for compatibility with existing and possible future components, checked for functionality and interoperability and subjected to stress testing.

As a result, the radiopharmacy in Lisses is now benefiting from a solution that effectively and efficiently combines life science systems with total building automation.

Comprehensive life science solution for Petnet Solutions

The installed life science solution from Siemens encompasses all disciplines, ranging from the user-friendly Desigo Insight management station for comfort and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) controls, to Sinteso fire detection and SiPass access control. Security is further increased by using Intrunet SI Series for intrusion detection, as well as Sistrore CX for video surveillance. Also regulatory compliance is assured with Siemens' Compact Monitoring Technology (CMT) for GxP critical monitoring of room conditions, in addition to radioactivity meters. All interact with each other using various communication protocols and platforms like BACnet, ModBus, LON and OPC to make one integrated system for safe and secure medicine production.

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For further information on integrated life science solutions, please see www.siemens.com/lifescience.

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