

CASE STUDY

VALUE OF REMOTE SITE COMMISSIONING

Remote Commissioning

Remote visualization tools are becoming more common in automation project execution and have found expanded uses during the COVID pandemic. These tools allow sites to engage their engineering and installation contractors to complete traditional commissioning tasks without requiring an onsite presence.

Using portable PC's, handheld phones and tablets, and visualization and annotation software, commissioning teams can work productively in real time. The use of Microsoft Teams™, Apple Facetime™, or specialty applications, such as Vuforia Chalk™.

Portability using wireless devices and wearable headset gear can give the remote viewer a realistic view of equipment from the perspective of the technician "on the ground" at the site. By viewing the area of interest together, the site and remote resources can collaborate to verify installations, check process reactions, and make recommendations.

Project:

Remote Site Commissioning – Biotech Plant, Maryland

Horizon Controls Group was the lead system integrator on a control system upgrade project for a biotech company in Maryland, USA. Part of the project required that two control panels be re-wired to support the new control schemes and the addition of new sensors and remote annunciator stations. The design phase of this project was completed in late 2020, and due to the COVID pandemic restrictions, the site wanted to limit the number of resources present at the plant site.

Horizon Controls Group worked with the instrument & electrical contractor using remote visualization software to provide installation assistance and guidance during the construction period. Using the same visualization software, the commissioning phase of the project was completed without requiring any HCG resources to be present on site.

Using remote visualization tools, the following tasks were completed effectively in collaboration with on-site resources:

- 1) Verified placement of components and terminals in the control panel.
- 2) Recorded interactions in the event a change needed to be reviewed.
- 3) Traced wiring visually to verify against wiring diagrams.
- 4) Verified intended operation of pilot lights and indicators.
- 5) Verified good wiring practices used and cleanliness standards met.

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HORIZON CONTROL GROUP WILL DEVELOP ADDITIONAL METRICS ON THIS INNOVATIVE METHOD OF COMMISSIONING ON FUTURE PROJECTS TO VALIDATE THE SAVINGS POTENTIAL ON LARGER, MORE COMPLEX PROJECTS.”

On this project, remote commissioning helped reduce Horizon Control Group's labor costs by a substantial amount (>60%) and eliminated all commissioning-related travel costs:

Commissioning labor estimate: 40 hours

Actual commissioning labor: 15 hours

Horizon Control Group will develop additional metrics on this innovative method of commissioning on future projects to validate the savings potential on larger, more complex projects.

Talk to us about other innovative ways that Horizon Control Group can help you improve project outcomes and reduce costs on your next site initiative.

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