

Case-study: Multi-national pyrotechnics supplier

Xylotek provides support in the development of a sophisticated automation system

Xylotek was asked to 'red-team' review plans for the scale-up of manufacturing in the UK plant of a multi-national pyrotechnics group.

The plans had been prepared by another group - the plans comprised automation of the whole process 'in one hit'.

Objectively, we were able to show that:

1. Each sub-process included a number of risks. By trying to combine a number of processes together, the combined risks would have been unacceptable and the debugging phases could have taken a year to fix
2. Less-than-adequate product buffering was included
3. No provision for manual backup was included
4. A number of steps included potentially dangerous handling of batches of components. A power failure could have caused a major event.



As a result of our intervention, the plans were reviewed against a comprehensive set of recommendations to include more buffering and separation, more and simpler sub-processes with the opportunity for manual backup and minimal handling of components