

■ Famar, Greece

Combining Efficiency with High Quality Standards

A leading European contract drug manufacturer, Famar, decided that weighing and dispensing automation would reduce cost and cycle time, guaranteeing total quality and improved throughput. Famar is deploying Simatic IT XFP at its 11 manufacturing sites.

Headquartered in Greece, Famar is a leading European provider of contract services to the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries. Famar, which has established itself as a premier service provider in the European market, has facilities in four European countries, including a network of 11 production sites, three pharmaceutical development units, one health and beauty research and development unit, and three distribution centers. Famar is subject to high customer pressure in the areas of quality, price, and delivery time. The accurate weighing and dispensing of input materials based on recipe specifications is the first and most critical component of a particularly complex and multistep manufacturing process. In an effort to reduce process complexity, Famar wanted to implement a unique automated weighing and dispensing system that would be tightly integrated with SAP across its European plants.

Improving operations through automation

Famar chose Simatic IT XFP for all the company's weighing and dispensing requirements. The solution was selected for its ease of use, product quality, ability to integrate with SAP, and ability to handle a wide range of product and weighing types. Opera-

tors are guided through an interactive user interface to perform any weighing order, whatever the active and nonactive ingredients.

"XFP Weighing & Dispensing allows Famar's manufacturing operations to improve their productivity while maintaining top quality and security. Fully validated by industry standards, all data are gathered automatically, ensuring compliant manufacturing and a full audit trail," says Vassilis Kolias, IT director at Famar. XFP Weighing & Dispensing ensures the consistent and accurate weighing of all active and nonactive ingredients and allows for automatic reconciliation of each work order. Master data, order data, and consumption information are automatically exchanged with the SAP enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, making sure information is always accurate.

XFP Weighing & Dispensing provides powerful weighing reconciliation to check the integrity of the weighing stages before combining materials. The process is fast and efficient. Operators scan the weighing labels corresponding to each work order, and XFP Weighing & Dispensing checks that the container exists and corresponds to a weighted



The weighing and dispensing unit is a critical process step in Famar's production operations

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Vassilis Kolias, IT Director at Famar

entity that is part of the work order. The risk of error is eliminated.

Immediate benefits

XFP Weighing & Dispensing guarantees fast and accurate weighing, translating into total quality, reduced cost, and improved productivity. XFP Weighing & Dispensing allows Famar to eliminate the manual steps of the critical weighing processes. This reduces the risk of errors and process or recipe deviations, streamlines resource use, and shortens the weighing cycle time. Within the company's French operations, for example, Famar has cut operator weighing tasks by one-third, enabling the operators to move to more value-added tasks. Weighing cycle time has been significantly reduced, cutting the process from three to two days for given work orders. XFP Weighing & Dispensing brings significant cost and time savings – a major competitive advantage for a contract manufacturer – providing a direct impact on profit margins. ■

info
contact

www.siemens.com/simatic-it
vincent.boudou@siemens.com