

Octapharma in Vienna: managing sensitive rooms with ultra-rigorous atmospheric control requirements.

Octapharma is a Swiss-registered company, specialised in developing and producing blood plasma products. The main production site is in Vienna, with others in France, Sweden and Mexico. Vienna is also where Octapharma operates its research and development centre, with associated laboratory facilities. Sauter systems control the entire building complex, which includes some highly sensitive rooms.



Octapharma set up its Vienna production and storage facilities back in 1989. A later decision led to research and development being concentrated at the Vienna site from 2004 onwards. That meant adding a new wing to the existing premises, and refurbishing the building management systems in the production areas as well.

It was no accident that Sauter was selected to carry out the job: what tipped the balance was the high standard of flexibility and solution competence that Sauter had demonstrated in an earlier project for Octapharma in 1998.

Complete refurbishment of the production area

The challenge for Sauter in 2000 was to use a four-week shutdown at the facility for adapting control of the entire production area, to comply with the CFR part 11 standard.

Key points of the specification naturally included measures to ensure that installations were maintained with utmost care and precision, backed-up by documentation stipulated in the standard.

The refurbished building management system used the Sauter EY3600 novaPro

system, which dependably meets the extra-strict requirements that are necessary for highly sensitive pharmaceutical production.

Ultra close-tolerance room control

The most delicate room control task at Octapharma is precise maintenance of room pressure (± 1 Pa), temperature ($\pm 0.3^\circ\text{C}$) and humidity ($\pm 2\%$). All three parameters are relevant to batch production statistics. For monitoring purposes, Sauter provides all the necessary data via an interface to the Intouch production control system. A voice synthesiser sounds alarms.

Just as Octapharma never lets up on progress, the building management is adapted to new requirements every year.

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Key building management design parameters for Octapharma production 3:-

- System: EY3600 novaPro
- Number of data points: 2300
- Printing interval: 6 h
- Interfaces/auxiliary functions:-
 - Direct printing redirection
 - Intouch I/O server
 - Logbook function for the control window and scheduler
- Control cabinets:-
 - 7 control centres with
 - a total of 10 switchboards
 - 6 touch-panels built into the control cabinet doors

