



CASE STUDY:

Are You Prepared, Just In Case?

How one facility's simple investment turned into gains



Collaborate > Innovate > Accelerate

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AN INTRODUCTION

Everyone could use a little help. Keeping track of Operational Technology (OT) systems is daunting, with so many components in an Industrial Control System. A systematic approach to proactive and preventative service is key in keeping a control system running, and therefore limit downtime.

When one site manager took the initiative to plan for the worst, it turned out to be one of the best decisions he ever made. He specifically requested Champion to assess and build a scheduled maintenance and service program as an insurance measure, Champion's premier maintenance plan, 24UP®. This preemptive action ultimately saved the day and the facility's yearly budget.



THE CUSTOMER

Oil Pipeline Terminal with PLC-driven Ship Loading

Located on the Gulf of Mexico, this oil pipeline terminal facility loads tanker ships with thousands of barrels of crude oil each day. Accuracy and timeliness are paramount in moving products.



THE PROBLEM

A terminal operator saw an approaching ship preparing to dock and load oil from the terminal pipeline. In preparation, the operator went to the ship loader panel only to find it wasn't working. A quick check revealed that the ship loader PLC battery had failed.

The dead battery meant the PLC had lost all programming. There was no backup of the program on any of the facility's computers.

The tanker ship docked at the terminal, waiting for its load. The clock was ticking. This delay could lead to an expensive demerge – punitive charges the terminal must pay the ship owner for delayed operations of loading or unloading cargo.

The loading equipment could not be controlled without the PLC, and the PLC couldn't function without the program. Reprogramming the PLC would take weeks to code.

“Good fortune is what happens when opportunity meets with planning.”

Thomas Edison



CHAMPION SOLUTION

24UP Support Solution

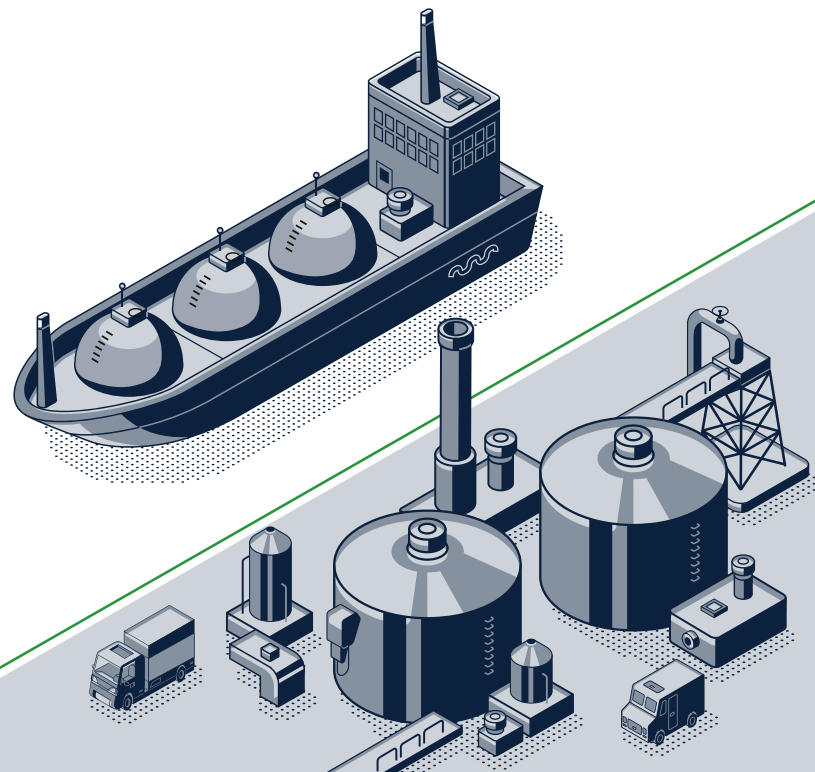
As part of the 24UP plan, Champion representatives had been on-site at the terminal one month prior to this event. At that time, Champion performed its quarterly audit, including system checks and programming backups of servers/workstations, PLC controllers, and HMIs.

The customer called Champion, and within four hours, our team had the ship loader PLC powered up and programming restored. The tanker ship received its load without the customer having to pay a huge penalty for the delay.

Return on Investment:

The entire year's cost of preventive maintenance through Champion's 24UP Service Agreement was justified in one instance. Had the backup not been available, the overall cost would have been in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY





“By failing to prepare,
you are preparing to fail.”

Benjamin Franklin

Top Benefits of a 24UP Service Agreement with Champion

Disaster Recovery

Disaster strikes when you least expect it. It can come in the form of a major weather event (hurricane, storm, flood, tornado), damage from fire, or system failure as illustrated above. By committing to a regular schedule of service, Champion can help your team build a recovery plan so you can ensure the expediency of system restoration in time of disaster.

Optimization of Function

24UP services can include activities that provide you with a snapshot of the well-being of your control system. Champion personnel will learn your system and make any recommendations on upgrades or problem areas they have encountered with those specific components found across a variety of applications. This helps reduce the risk of system failures because we look at the system as a whole on a frequent basis. With data reports provided through the service, you can review for acceptable limits and make informed, proactive decisions.

These activities include:

- Process Control Network Diagnostics and Loading
- Control System Diagnostics and Loading
- Asset Management including critical spare parts

Automation Personnel at the Ready

Many small to mid-size companies have fewer staff that understand the complexity of control systems. Current staff may not have the expertise or time to conduct diagnostics, voltage checks, and backups. Champion can also ensure software licenses are up to date, make upgrades, check compatibility, and install security patches. We provide the extra bandwidth to execute control system maintenance at your facility.

Platform Independent

Champion is a platform-independent control systems integrator. Our engineers have world-class automation experience and expertise to develop customized solutions for large control systems, ranging from hundreds to thousands of I/O and distributed control in both onshore and offshore applications.

Our engineers keep up with the latest technology and changes. They understand how to integrate, service and provide backward compatibility across multiple platforms.



Want to learn more?

For more information, or to schedule
a free consultation, contact:

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