

Emerson's Remote Virtual Office (RVO) Promotes Collaboration for Santos' On-time and On-budget Expansion

RESULTS

- Eased team collaboration
- Streamlined project execution and communications
- Provided greater visibility to plans and changes



APPLICATION

Natural gas production and conversion to liquefied natural gas (LNG).

CUSTOMER

Santos is one of Australia's leading natural gas producers and leads the GLNG project in Queensland, which extracts gas from coal seams and converts it to liquefied natural gas (LNG) for sale to world markets.

CHALLENGE

Santos had dual business goals for its recent upstream hub expansion works. First, add compression capability to the Roma hub. Second, build internal expertise and deliver cost savings by self-executing the project using Santos personnel and business systems. The teams accomplished both goals — with time to spare.

SOLUTION

Expanding to Meet Demand

Santos planned to build up the gas compression capability in part by expanding their DeltaV™ distributed control system (DCS) — in operation for decades. Santos' dedication to self-execution of the project led to core cost-saving techniques such as virtual collaboration — promoting travel savings and accurate information sharing. Santos teams self-executed project management, planning, scheduling, and cost controlling. In addition, from FEED to start up, Santos' teams engaged directly with the system configuration.

RVO helped maintain consistency because only one version of the project existed. Santos and Emerson team members around the globe collaborated to plan and build the solution.

Project Execution Cost Savings through Virtual Collaboration

To ensure consistency and precise communications, the teams needed a way to coordinate system updates and key project input deliverables from various OEM packages.

A real, virtual answer took shape. Santos selected Remote Virtual Office (RVO), one of the key technology enablers in Emerson's Project Certainty initiative, to improve capital project execution. RVO directly helps reduce project complexity and eliminates costs. With Emerson's RVO in place, the system architecture, controllers, instrument parameters, and more could be set up on centralized servers for multiple worldwide connections to a single project database and configuration.

- Streamlined virtual collaboration: Because RVO technology enabled replication of the existing Santos DeltaV system configuration, the team members — no matter where they were — easily developed the new configuration as well as tested and confirmed interaction with the current version.
- Effective use of time: The team called on a variety of global experts — who had small blocks of availability — to complete tasks efficiently.

From Execution to Testing with Little Travel and No Disruption

Team members around the world viewed and worked on the DCS while connected to the central server. Because system development and testing required no DCS hardware and very little office space, Santos realized savings.

Rather than perform a complete standard Factory Acceptance Test (FAT) in Melbourne, far from the customer site, the team developed a virtual FAT where a Melbourne-based team member worked concurrently on testing without travelling to the customer site. RVO enabled transition from execution to testing with no disruption.

Santos Project Team Delivers on Time and on Budget

Santos' strategies matured as they developed project methodologies that integrated Emerson project best practices. They delivered a high-quality project on time and on budget. Emerson was proud to help reduce some of the execution complexity with RVO.

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Emerson also helped Santos meet their project goals, integrate best practices and remotely manage more than 2000 wells at the Queensland site.

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