STMicroelectronics Integrates Alarm Notification into its Production Control Process

Source: S.T. MICROELECTRONICS

With revenues of $8,453 million in 2013, STMicroelectronics is the ninth-largest semiconductor manufacturer in the world. Among other locations, the company operates a site in Rousset, France. Opened in 1979 and specializing in microchips, smartcards, and other nonvolatile memories, the site also handles the construction of logical circuits and telecom applications for consumer equipment.

Semiconductor production environments are "clean rooms" and must be tightly monitored in order to reduce the possibility of product contamination. A dusty environment will almost certainly lead to quality control issues. In order to prevent such disasters, STMicroelectronics installed a data monitoring and centralization system that instantly recognizes a problem and alerts the appropriate people.

This system was supplied by WIN-911's European partner, Micromedia International. STMicroelectronics uses Micromedia's ALERT alarm notification software to supervise the facility's environmental conditions and promptly notify operators should any problems arise.

STMicroelectronics uses the InTouch supervisory system to monitor the facility, and ALERT Software is set up alongside for alarm implementation. If any equipment stops, critical levels are reached, quality parameters are at stake, and/or a machine encounters a defect, the InTouch supervisory system will detect it and ALERT will deliver the message.

When an alarm is triggered, ALERT connects to the appropriate operators via their mobile phones. Depending on the protocol as dictated situation ALERT will either send the operator a text or call them with a voice-recorded message.

This real-time response system is the best way to conform to STMicroelectronics Total Quality System.

Micromedia International has, also, developed a new driver that allows ALERT to transmit alarms directly to production control. This allows ALERT software to conform with the Virtual Factory Equipment Interface. By conforming with the interface, ALERT is guaranteed to provide STMicroelectronics with optimal reaction times, ensuring quick resolutions to any problems.

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