Application Story
Sugar Ethanol Plant Controls

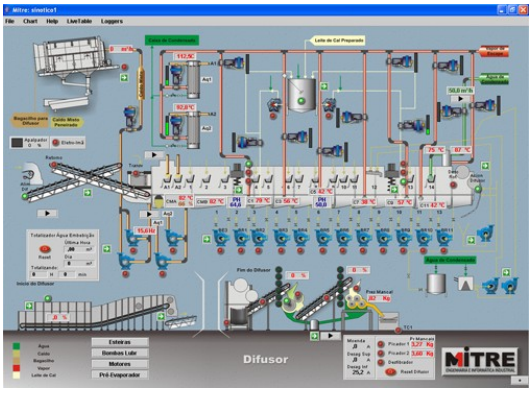
Dracena Obra, an ethanol producer in Brazil, selected Mitre Engenharia Ltd. (http://www.mitreengenharia.com.br) to implement the automation for their entire plant.

Since 1998, Mitre has provided open architecture control systems using SoftPLC® Programmable Automation Controllers (PAC), Profibus I/O, and Mitre's SCADA software called PlantJar.

Process Control

SoftPLC was chosen as the controller for a number of reasons. SoftPLC is an open architecture PAC that provides capacity, processing power, and flexibility unmatched in other systems - at a much lower price.

SoftPLC provides virtually unlimited user application memory, versatile PID control and floating point calculations. Extremely fast update times allow fast response I/O to be handled even with significant calculations being performed.



Three (3) SoftPLC's control the entire Dracena plant:

- Steam Generation (boiler, deaerator, and low steam temperature/pressure)
- Extraction (diffuser and pre-evaporator)
- Water treatment and demineralization
- Fermentation and distillation (hydrated and anhydrous ethanol).

Each SoftPLC is a Profibus Master, controlling its own distributed network of 50 to 80 slave I/O drops each. For Dracena, Mitre selected Siemens as the Profibus I/O provider, although other plants implemented by Mitre using SoftPLC utilize other manufacturer's I/O. As an open architecture controller, SoftPLC provides a wide range of I/O options, both for local I/O and remote, distributed solutions (eg: Profibus, Ethernet, and many others).

SCADA

PlantJar SCADA, developed by Mitre, is a Java application. It communicates to the SoftPLC controllers over ethernet using SoftPLC's embedded Java interface. This makes communications very efficient. PlantJar is a complete SCADA package, available at much lower cost than other options.

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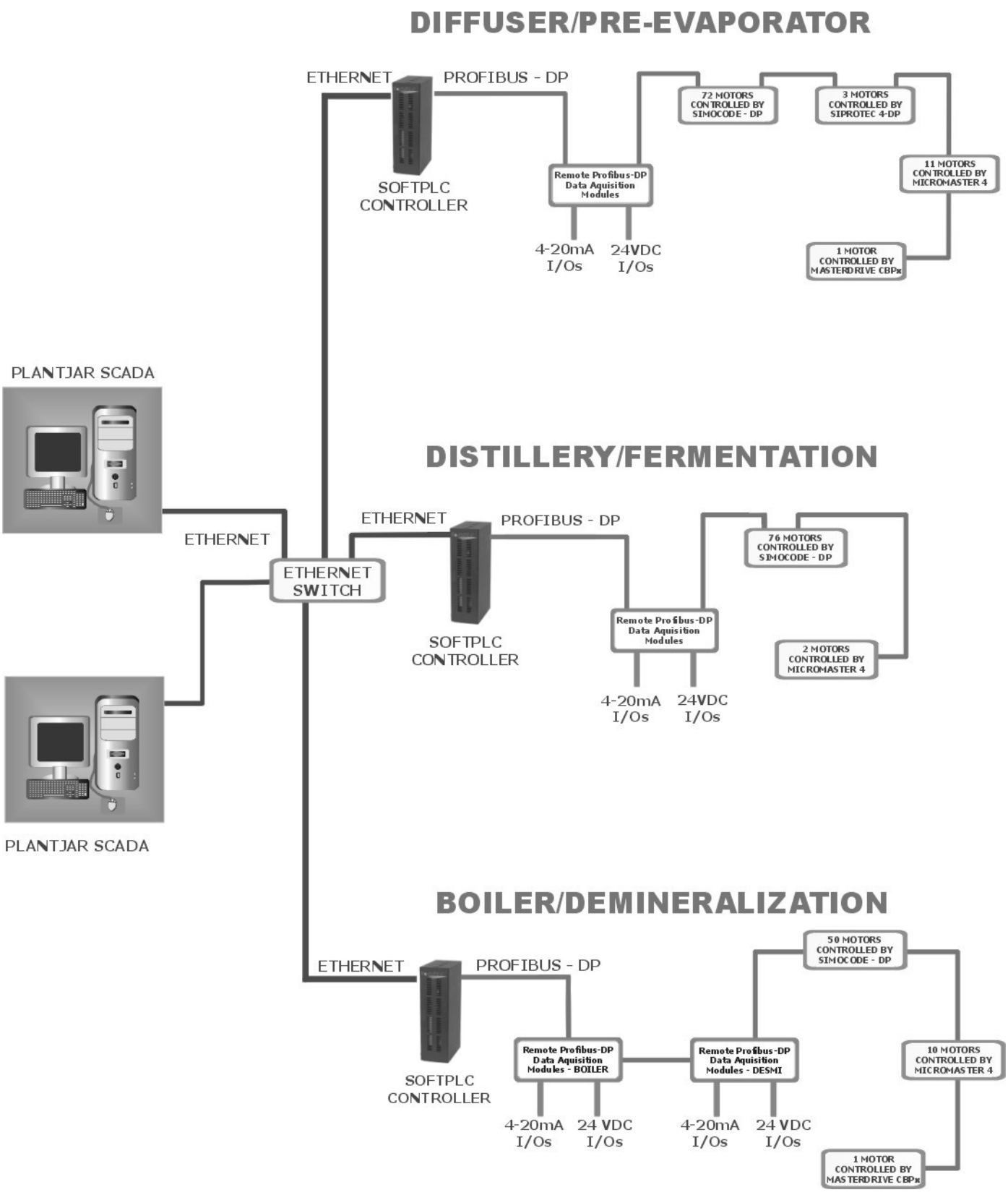
SoftPLC CORPORATION



Dracena Control System Overview