

Process gases are some of the deadliest, most dangerous materials used in today's manufacturing processes. Add to this the purity requirements of some industries such as semiconductors and solar panels to get critical control requirements. When BOC decided to develop a new family of gas control systems, they turned to KCC Software. The result was a family of scalable controllers.

Gas control systems are typically PLC-based containment systems and PC-based management systems. For the high-end PLC systems, KCC Software used the WinPLC running Think & Do software. For the lower-end PLC systems, KCC Software used the DL06 PLC from AutomationDirect. Both systems used the EZTouch and C-More panels as the HMI.

The deadly and explosive nature of some process gases requires safety to be the top priority. The production requirement of high-volume manufacturers requires gas management and delivery systems are available 100% of the time. Thus, stable hardware and software are a minimum requirement. Accurate, robust, and self-diagnosing systems are required.

The family of products developed by KCC Software includes very low-cost, minimal systems and very high-end networked systems using OPC and supporting Profibus, Devicenet, Ethernet, and many custom serial and network protocols.

In addition to managing BOC gas cabinets, some of the PC-based management systems have also been required to manage and monitor critical systems by other manufacturers. These systems typically log process events into databases, alarm and alert via email and TXT messaging when critical alarms are detected, and allow remote visualization and viewing of the specific states of any gas controller in the system. Often, these systems have to interface to client management systems or databases (often different for every location).

The family of products currently has more than 20 different products/configurations. KCC Software manages all version upgrades and can provide client-specific customizations. Systems have been installed in North America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.

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