

## TANK TERMINAL

*A team of Contec consisting out of people from E&I, Power, Manufacturing Control and iIT departments across countries is busy working on a big project. We are responsible for the complete E&I design, supply of electrical/control panels and the automated integration of a new tank terminal. We asked Robbe and Joren, two junior automation engineers about their experience during this impressive project. Here's their story:*

**Robbe:** I have been working at Contec since September and this was my first project after three weeks of training. I started under the guidance of Tom, who has more experience in the field. In the beginning it was mainly drawing HMI and SCADA screens, which we had to redraw from the P&IDs. That is how we got to know the ins and outs of the site.

After a few weeks I was allowed to program a few things myself such as the pumps for example, that are currently in operation.

As the next step in line, the customer came at our office for the FAT, the functional acceptance test. This is a simulation of the program to check if the visualisation is good enough for the customer. Possibly any last minute adjustments need to be done at this stage. Now I started to do the job of a more experienced colleague.

I coach two Romanian colleagues and solve potential problems. In the meantime, I program what is not done yet. Every evening I write a report on how everything went that day and I communicate the tasks for the following day.

I am now in a position with certain responsibilities, but in case of really serious problems I can always count on the project manager's advice. Mostly they have faith in me that I will find a proper solution when things don't go as expected. These responsibilities might be scary at first sight, but I think it's for the best, because it really speeds up the learning process.

I am very happy and satisfied on how everything went so far. You are not always in the same office and everyday looks different: different things to test, other problems to tackle... It may sound strange, but the more problems the better. Solving problems really is the most fun.

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I have been in the field very often which makes it easier to understand why something won't work as it should. Sometimes you definitely have to think out of the box and push your limits. It is also important to think ahead what

others can do. Working with other colleagues went very well. They spared some time for

me and were eager to answer my questions.

The most important thing I have learned so far is the fact that hardly anything goes according to plan. You can plan everything so perfectly, but you must always take into account that you are also depending on external parties and factors. You can worry about this, but in the end it is better to let go and just accept things the way they are. Flexibility is also an important one concerning this matter. The training I followed in the beginning of my career at Contec has helped me multiple times in the project and is highly recommended for every starting engineer. Especially the introduction to E&I and Power. For example I heard about Atex before but never really knew how to apply it before the introduction training. Now I recognise the symbols and know how to apply them. I learned how to interpret a P&ID and where the different lines stand for.







**Joren:** I started at Contec in December. This was the first project I participated in. I worked on this project until early February, then I switched to another project. I mainly did IO checks, you check whether the connections are made correctly so the valves could be managed correctly. I teamed up with Robbe, two other more experienced colleagues and various testers who went to check on the outside.

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They were all great people to work with. Contact with the customer we mainly had with the site manager. He told us which part was finished and which part we could test next.

For me it was definitely an interesting project to start with. I learned how everything works in the field, how to check the IO and also had a good refresher of reading schematic circuit diagrams. I also learned how to connect the PC's through Ethernet.

I certainly enjoyed enough coaching. If I had any questions, someone from Contec was always willing to help me and I was allowed to do a lot on my own.

*Many thanks Robbe and Joren for sharing your story with us and good luck with your upcoming projects!*

