

OEM from Belarus Found with ToolCommander® Framework for Own Equipment Control Solution



"Before we finished our first machine with ToolCommander® on board, there was a certain level of skepticism in the company about the ability of automation department to deliver this level of automation and usability of the software. Now we are done and this feels great!"

Yauhen Simalatsar,
Head of Automation Department,
StratNanoTech



ToolCommander®

StratNanoTech
Minsk, Belarus

Project:
Implementation of a new equipment control platform

Platform:
ToolCommander®

Kontron AIS services:
Developer training, basic project setup, continuous development support, code and design reviews



Goals

- Find and introduce a new equipment control platform
- Get a competitive advantage on the market
- Improve quality of control software significantly



Challenge

- Replace an existing approach for equipment automation
- Fast time to market
- Convince the stakeholder very limited resources (budget and man power) to develop a complete new control platform



Results

- PC-based automation approach based on ToolCommander®
- New control solution in less than five months
- SEMI standards supported out of the box

StratNanoTech were looking for a modern, open equipment control framework for replacing their old control solution. The challenge was to find a product as well as a strong partner behind it. Both were found at Kontron AIS.

A high level of standard modules from the ToolCommander®, combined with the open and modular software design of the software framework, allowed easy customizations for a first system. By using ToolCommander®, StratNanoTech was able to realize their new tool control platform within shortest time. Kontron AIS were always present by providing project support and design proposals from experienced application engineers and software architects.

Goals

StratNanoTech is a young team of specialists and very experienced in various technologies. The existing control software solution has been growing for many years and became a heterogeneous landscape at the end. Modifications of the software were expensive and lead to instability.

The old solution was no longer able to provide functionality, stability and usability requested by the market for new systems. The market of StratNanoTech is also very competitive and the new control system had to provide a unique selling point.

Beside the functionality, time to market was a key requirement. A new software development from scratch was therefore not possible and the focus was on a platform which already provides a high level of basic functionality, standardized interfaces, usability and a well-structured modular software design.

Solution

StratNanoTech and Kontron AIS worked out a plan that was addressing the major goals as new state of the art software and fast time to market. The plan included an intensive training and the utilization of the ToolCommander® software framework.

As control architecture, a PC running the ToolCommander® application and an underlying PLC for some designated control functions was chosen. Components e.g. MFCs, valves are connected to the I/O units of the PLC and are controlled by the ToolCommander®. The graphical user interface was realized by WPF, supported by the framework of ToolCommander®.

Results

After only eight days of intensive training at Kontron AIS, two engineers from StratNanoTech started to develop the first own control platform for a new equipment type. With only a few hours of following support by Kontron AIS, the software engineers from StatNanoTech were able to realize the control solution within only four months after the training.

All the sceptics could be convinced that a right decision was made. New applications with different functions and layout as well as additional components can easily be integrated now with limited effort based on the well-structured but very open ToolCommander® software framework.

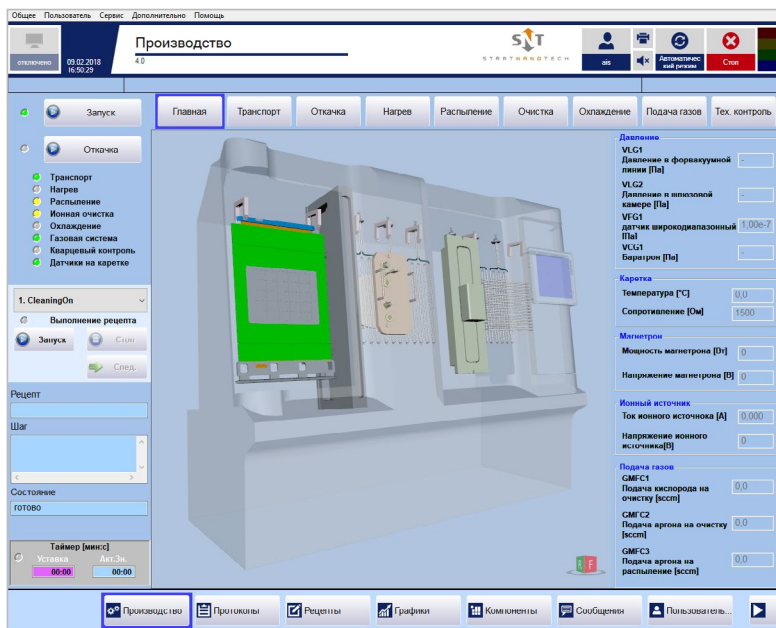


Figure:
Control platform for a new
equipment type from StratNanoTech

About StratNanoTech

StratNanoTech Invest is a developer and manufacturer of thin-film special vacuum process equipment and high-tech industries based on it. The equipment produced by our company is widely used in display production, microelectronics, optics, the production of solar panels and space industry.

StratNanoTech Invest offers innovative engineering systems and provides continuous monitoring of compliance with the technical requirements at all stages of the production (from the start of design to the finished product).

For more information please visit: www.stratnanotech.com

About Kontron AIS GmbH

We set the benchmark in industrial software – for more than 30 years and with an experienced team of over 200 employees. Our proven software products and customized digitalization solutions enable machine and equipment builders as well as factory operators to break new ground in automation and secure long-term competitive advantages. Together with our customers we implement worldwide cross-industry, intelligent digitalization strategies and solutions for the smart manufacturing of tomorrow.

As a subsidiary of the Kontron AG, we offer integrated, end-to-end IoT concepts consisting of hardware and software as well as worldwide project management, service, and support thanks to a global network.

For more information please visit: www.kontron-ais.com