



Case Study: USS-POSCO

Overview

USS-POSCO Industries (UPI) manufactures a wide variety of flat rolled steel products. To access statistical data gathered in the production process, UPI uses ITTIA ODBC software from ITTIA.

The Client

Since 1910, the USS-POSCO steel finishing plant has been supplying steel materials for major public works projects and customers throughout the western United States. In 1989, the plant underwent a \$450 million modernization, making it one of the most efficient steel finishing facilities in the world.

The Challenge

To ensure quality and monitor the production process, UPI uses ARL Metals Analyzers made by Thermo Electron Corporation. Information from these spectrometers is continuously stored in a database. Thermo Electron bundles the WinOE software package with their analyzers, which is used to do statistical analysis and calibration. However, UPI was unable to access this data outside of WinOE for custom reporting and further analysis.

The Solution

Thermo Electron offers a plug-in module for WinOE that allows data to be transmitted across a network to other machines running WinOE or exported to other formats. UPI did not select this option because the data could not be read automatically through industry standard tools, and because of the prohibitive cost of Thermo Electron's plug-in tool.

Instead, UPI selected ITTIA ODBC, which provides an industry-standard ODBC interface for accessing data stored in WinOE. With this tool, UPI is able to automatically import spectrometer data into a Microsoft SQL Server database four times a day. As part of the import process, the data is customized through simple SQL transformation. ITTIA ODBC has provided a straightforward solution that offers good performance at a much more reasonable cost.