IT HAS ALMOST BECOME a tradition: Since 1982, the Bitburger brewing group has been using a Siemens process control system designed specifically for breweries – not only at the group’s headquarters in Bitburg but also at other brewing locations such as those in Lich, Duisburg, Bad Köstritz and Wernesgrün. The brewery now has extensive experience with the system and has developed in-house programming capacities. “Braumat has grown alongside our requirements and our increased capacity. And we have learned to tailor the system to our demands and know-how. We now have an absolutely continuous automation control system from a software solution to a standard software product. All typical characteristics of a standard product have been introduced since the Automation Engineering division took over responsibility for Braumat Classic – standard life cycle, support, training and standard hotline. “Our focus has been and is primarily on the standard quality regulations and the associated intensive system testing”, says Dr. Johannes Hankes, head of central engineering at Bitburger brewing group. “New functionalities”, according to the expert, “work smoothly from the very beginning. We can use the system to brew beer efficiently and integrate all relevant ancillary processes – this is exactly what we need.” The brewery-specific control system from Siemens is installed in numerous plants around the world, not only for reasons of cost-efficiency, but because the system provides numerous benefits especially when the human factor comes into play. The components are easy to install, to maintain and simple to operate. This is supported by a large number of system integrators that have years of experience with Braumat.

MODERNIZING THE AUTOMATION INFRASTRUCTURE | A process control system has been supporting the brewing process at the Bitburger Brauerei for around 30 years already. The automation infrastructure is continuously upgraded. State-of-the-art innovation steps and the conversion from a centralized to a decentralized structure make sure that ancillary processes are also integrated and the focus is firmly on increasing efficiency. This is to be boosted further by upgrading the process control system.

Easy to install, control and maintain
The Bitburger brewing group has experienced the development of the process control system from a software solution to a standard software product. All typical characteristics of a standard product have been introduced since the Automation Engineering division took over responsibility for Braumat Classic – standard life cycle, support, training and standard hotline.

“Our focus has been and is primarily on the standard quality regulations and the associated intensive system testing”, says Dr. Johannes Hankes, head of central engineering at Bitburger brewing group. “New functionalities”, according to the expert, “work smoothly from the very beginning. We can use the system to brew beer efficiently and integrate all relevant ancillary processes – this is exactly what we need.” The brewery-specific control system from Siemens is installed in numerous plants around the world, not only for reasons of cost-efficiency, but because the system provides numerous benefits especially when the human factor comes into play. The components are easy to install, to maintain and simple to operate. This is supported by a large number of system integrators that have years of experience with Braumat.
Conversion to Simatic S7 almost concluded

The entire automation infrastructure at the Bitburg, Lich and Wernesgruen locations is currently being converted from a centralized to distributed one. “We are currently replacing our last Simatic S5 controllers with the Simatic S7-400 and install a high-performance Profibus infrastructure with distributed I/O devices”, says Dieter Lichter. He reports further: “In the course of this gradual modernization we make improvements at all points of the production process, which we, of course, also want to visualize in the process automation.” Consequently, Bitburger will be one of the first breweries in Germany to use the new Braumat V7 version in its everyday operations.

A tradition of innovation

With the V7 version scheduled for early 2014, Siemens is carrying on a long tradition of innovation. The process control system was enhanced and has numerous innovative features that make brewing and ancillary processes safer and more efficient. Materials management and new technical functions for the simple automation of typical fermenting and storage cellar objects are integrated for the first time. Comprehensive functions for the protection of production and a visually modernized and functionally extended user interface round off the range of improvements. Furthermore, the new version will be backward compatible and thus guarantee the long-term availability of existing installations through uncomplicated and no-risk upgrades.

With version V7, Braumat makes the next important step of innovation with a clear focus on increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the brewing industry. It is a fully developed system custom tailored exactly to the requirements of the brewing industry which combines continuity and high availability on a single platform. Users such as the Bitburger brewing group appreciate the user-friendliness of their system and the option of taking proven solutions into the future.

For Dr. J. Hankes, Bitburger, the simple operation and the no-risk “upgrading” due to the backward compatibility were decisive factors for implementing Braumat Classic.