Better Process Control Models Necessary
Experts Call for More Simulation in Process Industries

Industry experts and researchers in virtual commissioning joined together Thursday at the Interkama podium to discuss the expanded use of process control simulation for the start-up of plants in the process industries. While many processors apply simulated process control for specific parts of a process, most fail to see the need for complete pre-start-up simulation, according to Torsten Winkler from Honeywell Process Systems: "There is hardly a client that wants a simulated control system along with the real control system."

Researchers at the debate agreed that creating a complete simulation control for a process prior to commissioning remains arduous. Citing the paucity of standardised mathematical models for simulations, Reimar Schumann from Hanover Technical University said bluntly: "You have to take what you can get." Schumann called for a "standard dynamic simulation library for components."

Dirk Abel from the Aachen Technical University said simulated process control is needed "to see if the dynamic components fit together."

Christine Maul from Bayer Technology Services lauded the success of virtual commissioning for training operators and suggested industry work in concert with universities to advance the development of process control simulations as well as virtual commissioning of batch processes, an area which has been largely ignored. Concerns about covering simulation costs for a batch process have generally blocked virtual commission from the sector, but Maul said she "would like to see process engineers involved" in pre-start-up simulations.

Virtual commissioning represents just one of the numerous latest industry trends being examined at Interkama. Industry experts will be on hand Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to discuss more hot topics.

Interkama, Halle 7, Booth E46