The system configuration at the right controls this continuous process liquid blending system. The control equipment consists of four industrial personal computers, which provide the operator interface to the system. The PC’s are networked together with an Ethernet LAN and are networked to PLC-5’s via Allen-Bradley's DH network. U.S.Data’s Factorylink software is run on the PC’s to provide system status information, production reports, and recipes for the process. The system has over 20,000 tags.

The process consists of many storage tanks, mixers, and blender all connected by a complex network of pipes, valves, flow meters, metering pumps, etc.

A typical HMI blending screen is shown below. The system is totally automated. The raw material flow is controlled and blended based on complex recipes setup by the operators on the PC’s. The recipes are then downloaded to the PLC’s, which control a batch from start to finish. The system allows multiple batches to be run simultaneously.