



# Prodigy News

UPDATE

Issue No. 13

## Centura Gain Process Knowledge

Centura Foods needed a system to allow them to gain a better understanding of the dynamics of their production process and to enable individual batches of suet to be tracked.

All key variables are monitored and recorded by Prodigy: pump and valve states; vat levels; temperatures; and pressures. In addition, the temperature controllers were monitored to provide a trend history of the control exercised.



Prodigy's batch handling facilities were used to create a new batch file for each bin being filled. As the bins are moved into cold storage, so the batches are held in a cold storage database which can be viewed

by Planning. When the suet is taken from the cold store and discharged to one of the packing lines, the batch file is then augmented with the details and transferred to the discharge database. Any pack of suet can then be traced, through this database, back to the original production run.

The system was also designed to allow the knowledge gained from using the system to be added to that of the expert staff to form a database of

information which would enable the process to be run more consistently and problems to be resolved more quickly.

## Radio Telemetry Monitoring at Ciba

Access Instrumentation and React Controls have installed a radio telemetry monitoring system for Ciba in one of their effluent plants. The system makes use of Warwick Industrial Electronics XNET modules to transmit the level and status information from the remote areas of the plant to two receiver units. One is based in the office area occupied by the site engineers and the other is in the gatehouse ½ mile away, making the information available to the security guards in the event of a problem overnight.

Prodigy remote workstation is also being used to allow 8 users to view the data over the company's world wide network.

## New Systems Integrators

The release of Prodigy 5 has seen a marked increase in the number of Prodigy Systems Integrators:

Logix Automation, specialists in stadia and prison systems were appointed as Approved Integrators in July.

Control & Data Solutions, specialists in furnace and coating line control for the steel industry were appointed as Approved Prodigy Integrators in June.

Conral Instrument Services have been selected as the new regional integrator for Edinburgh. With extensive experience in control systems, and a specialist knowledge of oven and cooker control, they have proved to be an ideal Prodigy partner.

## Westlers Target Energy Savings

Prodigy was selected by Westler Foods to monitor the energy usage in one of their food processing plants. Armed with an understanding of their current energy usage, the company would then be in a position to start reducing their fuel costs and gain rebates under the Climate Change Levy.

Initially, the voltage and currents on ten three phase supplies were monitored with provision for expanding to cover site wide steam usage at a later date.

The system continuously recalculates the power used on each phase of each supply. The minimum, mean and maximum of each of these are then recorded into a daily batch file so that longer term changes can be clearly seen. The energy used is also



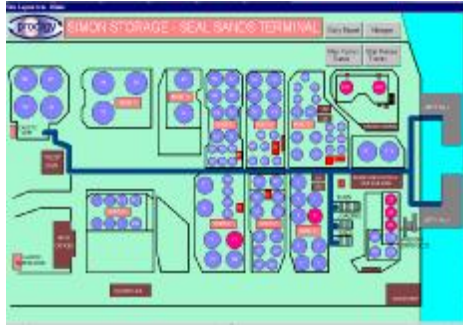
derived on a daily basis to provide a comparison with the electricity supplier's meters.

Manually taken measurements from around the site are also entered into the system with a view to automating them at a later date.

# Simon Storage's Tank Farm Monitoring

Simon Storage needed a new system to replace an old control panel, containing ammeters and chart recorders which were used to monitor numerous pumps around their site. As the petroleum products are transferred between ships and the various tanks, or between tanks, the current drawn by each individual pump is monitored.

Using Prodigy's Display Builder, Simon Storage staff were able to draw an overview of their site, highlighting the positions of all pumps and with the use of colour change attributes, show which pumps were running at that instant in time. Clicking on individual pumps allows them to view the current status of that pump and gives access to Prodigy's trending facilities.



Prodigy has proven to be a fast and effective tool which the operators can easily navigate around and which allows them to easily view the information they require; Whether it is the current status of any of the monitored pumps or a history of the currents drawn.

Prodigy's alarms package has also been utilised in the system, so that any pump drawing too high a current is highlighted on the displays and a flashing annunciator is triggered to warn the maintenance staff.

Simon Storage now have an easily expandable tool which meets their needs and which can be added to by their own staff as their requirements change.

# Corus Extruder Monitoring

ISS have completed installation of a new Prodigy SCADA system at Corus Special Sections. The system controls and monitors the plastic extrusion process which coats the steel pipes used in the transportation of oil.

The system integrates a variety of new and existing equipment including Eurotherm controllers, West indicators, Raytek single point measurements and Dynisco indicators. By performing supervisory control of the induction heating stages, the quantity of rejected product has been significantly reduced and there are now plans to expand the system to other areas.

A fuller write-up will be available in the next issue.

## What's New

Prodigy's new OPC interface has been released for beta testing with our key Systems Integrators. Once proven the interface will open the door to using a huge range of third party drivers with Prodigy systems.

An SPC package has been added which allows values to be taken directly from Prodigy's databases and can also accept input from CSV files and through manual entries. A variety of output is available including: distribution charts; machine capability; and process capability.

## New Website Launched

Tascomp's new website [www.tascomp.com](http://www.tascomp.com) was officially launched in April this year and has already proved very successful. The site now includes a rolling Alchemy demonstration and allows users to register their Prodigy systems. Email requests for Prodigy information have even been received from as far afield as Russia.

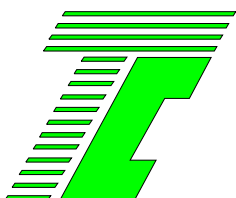
## Free Cream Cakes!

All answers to the word search are contained within the text of this newsletter.

1. Who is the new regional integrator for Edinburgh?
2. Who needs suet monitoring?
3. Which new Prodigy interface has entered beta testing?
4. When was Tascomp's new website launched?
5. What is the best SCADA package in the world?
6. Who installed extruder monitoring for Corus?
7. Who wants to monitor their three phase electricity supplies?
8. Who is monitoring their tank farm?

P R O D I G Y P R O D S  
G Y P R O D I G Y P I O  
D I G Y P R O D I M Y P  
R O D L A R T N O C I G  
Y P R P D I G N P R O D  
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G Y P R O D I S S P R O  
D I A Y P R O L I G Y P  
R G D I G Y P R O D I G  
E P W E S T L E R S O D

Send your answers together with your name, address and number of people in your office, back to Tascomp by the 1st November. The first correct entry out of the hat will win cream cakes for everyone in their office. Offer limited to 30 cream cakes.



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