

Prodigy News

Issue No. 8



Tascomp's Wort Boiling Algorithm Incorporated Into Prodigy

An order was recently placed by the Whitbread Castle Eden Brewery for a Prodigy system to control their wort boiling process. The system incorporates Tascomp's proven mathematical model of the wort boiling process which has reduced energy costs and improved wort consistency for many UK breweries.



Traditional methods of using only steam mass flow to control wort boiling have many weaknesses. The algorithm which has been incorporated into Prodigy compensates for many additional factors which have been shown to adversely affect wort consistency. This increase in consistency allows target evaporations to be reduced without the risk of under-boiling and

thus gives the additional benefit of significant energy savings.

By basing the system on a modern PC control package, additional benefits are gained including: on-line quality records; continuous graphing; production reports; full automatic control; and the automatic addition of hops, finings and sugar.

Existing Customers Upgrade

Tascomp's existing customers have now been offered an upgrade route from their TASCMASTER systems based on OS-9 to a Windows NT 4 Prodigy system. This allows them to update without losing their valuable configuration details and stored process data. Thus the costs of upgrading older systems to a modern PC platform are significantly reduced.

This offer has already been taken up by a number of Tascomp's existing customers, including: an international chemical company and a large London based brewery.

ISS Make Prodigy Sales Into Aerospace Support Industry

ISS have recently completed commissioning of a Prodigy system which controls and monitors the treatment of parts used in the aerospace industry. The system comprises 6 multi zone furnaces and 9 salt baths, which are connected to 27 Eurotherm temperature controllers and 6 Skako vibratory weighing computers.

User defined recipes are held in the Prodigy system and are used to control the required feed rates, the furnace temperature and the salt bath concentration. Prodigy also monitors the system and stores the data to the

hard disk in the form of batch records and continuous recordings.

As a recognised supplier of all the component parts of the system, ISS could offer a complete turnkey solution which was within the available budget. Included in the price was the provision for Tascomp to write a new Prodigy driver to communicate with the Skako units which use their own proprietary protocol. The Prodigy system also offered the flexibility to meet any future requirements through its defined upgrade paths and easy user configuration.



Instrumentation Systems and Services Limited (ISS) can be contacted through Tascomp or directly on 01943 602001.

Prodigy On Tour

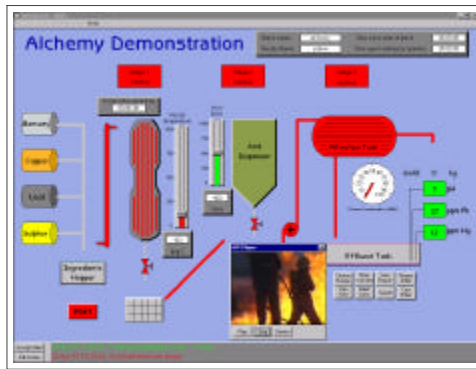
Instrumentation Harrogate '97

Tascomp exhibited recently at the Instrumentation Harrogate '97 exhibition. On show was the latest release of Prodigy, running the alchemy demonstration and linked to a variety of instrumentation on sale from a Prodigy Approved Systems Integrator.

This is the third exhibition this year attended by Tascomp directly and yet again, a high level of enthusiasm for a UK developed SCADA package has been expressed.

IEEEMarton Country Club

Prodigy was also on show at the IEEE Marton Country Club exhibition at Middlesbrough in October. Again it provoked a high level of interest and current talks indicate that North East companies will be benefitting from new Prodigy systems within the next 6 months.



Interest From The USA

A major instrument manufacturer from the USA is currently assessing the Prodigy lite package as a simple SCADA system for use with their own controllers. Initial reactions have been very positive and distribution details are expected to be finalised by the end of November.

Prodigy Launched On The Web

Since adding Prodigy information to its home page, Tascomp has received e-mails requesting further details from companies as far afield as Israel and Slovenia.

New Features

Since the last release of this newsletter, Prodigy has undergone a number of changes, including:

Improved Performance

The latest releases of Prodigy are now compiled using Visual C++ version 5 which Microsoft claims will give a 10% speed improvement.

New Drivers

A new driver has now been introduced to allow Prodigy to communicate with ADAM 4000 series data acquisition modules, using a proprietary RS-485 network protocol. ADAM modules are available in analogue input, strain gauge input, analogue output, digital input / output, relay input and counter / frequency input formats. Similarly, a new driver has been introduced for the Skako MCE 9000 series vibratory weighing computers.

New Systems Integrators Appointed

Tascomp is proud to announce that React Control Services Limited and Colter Systems Limited have been accepted as Approved Systems Integrators for Prodigy.

Based in Rustington, West Sussex, React have a long history in the control and instrumentation industry and will be covering Prodigy systems along the South East coast of England.

Colter's FMT range of plcs are building up a reputation for flexibility and reliability and are seen as cost effective solutions to many control



requirements. As all Colter products support Modbus protocol they make an ideal front end to the Prodigy package. Based in Essex they will provide Prodigy services and support for North London and the surrounding counties.

Annotation Of Trends

In a direct response to customer demand, Prodigy now has a facility to allow operators to add comments into the system. These can be either time stamped at the time the message was entered or at a user defined time. The comments can then be reviewed in conjunction with the trending facility which allows process disturbances to be more fully understood.

Distributed Data

Prodigy now has a facility to share databases between remote computers. This distributed data access is transparent to the user and is maintained over standard network connections. Current data shown on any Prodigy system can, therefore, also be viewed on any number of other Prodigy systems.



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