

Prodigy

Production Control & Monitoring

Introduction

Anglian Home Improvements are industry leaders in the manufacture of uPVC doors and window frames. From its pioneering work in the early 1960's through to its present state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities, the company have constantly strived to produce the highest quality products at affordable prices. As part of this continuous improvement process, Anglian Home Improvements have invested in a Prodigy based SCADA system for production control and monitoring.

Key System Goals

The overriding aims of Anglian's Prodigy SCADA system were to;

- Increase production capacity
- Improve product quality
- Reduce product variability
- Improve operating efficiency
- Increase overall profitability



The company realised that the key to its goals lay in first obtaining a better understanding of the existing production processes.

Whilst much of Anglian's manufacturing equipment made use of modern control electronics it was all designed to operate in a stand alone fashion. A complete picture of the production process would only be possible once information from a number of key areas was made available at a central point.

The automatic collection of process information was made using a number of network communications links to new and existing monitoring equipment. These links obtain various temperatures, pressures and flows etc. from the initial materials preparation in the compound plant through to product manufacture on the extruder lines.



Versatile Data Collection

The collection of continuous process measurements, though important, only gave part of the overall picture. The company also makes a number of QC measurements using manual techniques. To aid understanding of the entire process it was important that these measurements could be viewed seamlessly with the automatic measurements. The system was therefore designed to use a number of shop floor terminals to allow direct operator input/output to simplify information flow and reduce the paperwork.

Machine Utilisation & OEE

In order to obtain a better understanding of the reasons for production stoppages, the company has made use of Prodigy's Downtime Monitoring facility. This uses shop floor terminals to obtain stoppage codes from the machine operators at the time of any production disturbance. This method of automatic down time monitoring provides an accurate picture of machine utilisation in a way that traditional paper based systems can never hope to achieve. From the raw data, Prodigy automatically prepares detailed shift/daily/weekly production reports with production rates, totals and OEE being shown as summary reports.



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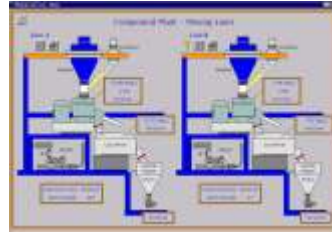
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Plant Overview

As well as providing a valuable tool for the analysis of the mechanics of the extrusion plant, Prodigy can also play a role in the smooth operation of the plant by providing a detailed picture of the entire plant from a single PC screen. From this, the user can see an overview of key process information, or click on an individual item of equipment for a more detailed view.



Remote Data Access

By using the Prodigy Interconnect package, information from the main Prodigy server can be accessed by any PC which is connected to the local area network. This allows the information to be made available throughout the company which makes it easier for senior management to exercise better production control and monitoring.

Features

- Factory-wide production monitoring and control
- Operator terminals at each machine
- Product/run length counting
- Continuous chart recording
- Automated data capture with manual input capability
- Alarm monitoring
- Automatic production reports
- Maintenance scheduling
- Production recipe handling
- Network data transfer

Benefits

- Gain an understanding of what's really happening on the shop floor
- Reduced production disturbances
- Increased production output
- Automatic quality records
- Reduced machine downtime
- Overview of the whole manufacturing operation
- Improved product quality and consistency

eye to the future window on the world

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