Baiada Feedmill Upgrade Reduces Business Risk 2008

Customer

Baiada Select Poultry is the largest provider of chicken meat in Australia. Feed is supplied from company owned as well as contracted feedmills located throughout Australia. The Hanwood mill is Baiada's largest feedmill capable of producing 60 tonnes of pelleted feed per hour and was upgraded in 2008.

Problem

The control system in use at the feed mill was nearing the end of its life. The PLC hardware and communication network was obsolete and no longer manufactured by the supplier. This presented an increasing risk to the plant's production.

Solution

The latest state of the art Genius Feedmill control system, produced locally by Gordyn and Palmer, was installed at the mill. The system controls feed production from the raw material intake to the outloading of finished product. It includes highly accurate batch weighing, automatic press control and a liquid enzyme addition system.

Outcome

Gordyn & Palmer project managed the upgrade providing electrical engineering, automation and electrical support and liaised with Baiada management, production schedulers and local contractors.

Minimizing the downtime of the plant was the most important factor in changing over the control system. An approach was adopted that minimized interruptions to plant production. Due to the complexity of the plant and the importance of continued production, the changeover to the new control system was based on six weekend shutdowns over 18 months.

The batch weighing system saves time and money by providing real time inventory by communicating to Baiada's ERP software. All orders from this software are automatically scheduled in the Genius batching system. When all batches in the particular order have completed weighing, the batching system passes back finished product quantities, all materials and actual weights used, as well as recipe information. The system keeps a full history of batch data providing improved management reporting and decision-making.

.

The system is Ethernet based and operates on a standard PC making the need for specialized equipment obsolete reducing plant downtime. It handles all weighing and mixing tasks as well as recipe input, batch sequencing, destination control and reporting. Recipes are automatically downloaded from Baiada's least cost formulation software via the network, eliminating manual handling and contamination.

The hardware used to build the Genius system includes the latest developments in computer and process control technology. This structure enabled all communication security to be handled using the same security technologies with which Baiada's IT departments used.

"The feedmill control system upgrade, managed by Gordyn & Palmer, was delivered on time and on budget with only minor loss of production. We are delighted with the performance and reliability of the system. The software is efficient and easy to use. Service and response times are excellent."

Garth Oakroot
Riverina Feedmill Manager
Baiada Feedmill Hanwood