



Vertech:

REAL TIME MONITORING FOR PRODUCTION LINES

Increased production machine speeds, multiplicity of inspection equipment and the quality of articles produced are just some of the demands that glassmakers have to supply their hot-end and cold-end operators with. Vertech's response is a monitoring system that can provide continuous and updated information, while reducing reaction times with payback to about six months.

THE PLANT

T SOCAVER (SOciété CAmerounaise de VERrierie), a unique glass plant in Central Africa, is located in Douala, Cameroon. Its production site has one furnace with a capacity of 135 tons per day, and three production lines equipped with *MI* machines and *CSBC* from *MSC-SGCC*.

The plant produces and distributes several types of glass containers such as:

- decorated and non decorated bottles for beer, sodas, wine, fruit juice and spirits;
- flint glass, mainly used in the pharmaceutical industry;

CASE STUDY



Vertech equipe

- pots and jars used in the food industry (sweets and chocolate manufacturers) and in the perfume industries.

Mr. Delattre, Technical Manager of the plant, has a lengthy experience of the glass container industry after working as a Maintenance Manager, Production Manager and Plant Manager in several plants in France. He chose the SILC monitoring system in 2008 for the three production lines and speaks to us about his experience below.

“After spending 15 years in *Saint-Gobain* plants and seeing the installation of SILC, I am convinced of the benefit of the system to increase the output (two per cent on average) and to improve reaction time, and consequently the quality produced. Right after the installation of SILC, operators started using it even before attending the training.”

THE ISSUE

In 2008, the plant gave total satisfaction with an 85 per cent

History Cavities

yield and a very good mastering of glass. However, Mr. Delattre wished to improve the output up to 95 per cent thanks to an automatic monitoring tool at the hot end in order to improve the reactivity of machine operators.

Manual counting did not help to react quickly, especially on the defects detected by the M1 machine equipped with Mould Number Readers.

The plant had a partial view of production performances and the share of information could be improved. The system chosen would allow anyone from the plant to consult production information from his PC.

Moreover, with three lines, the plant could not support a large



investment. It needed a light monitoring system, easy to install, with the best return on investment.

THE SOLUTION

“We chose a SILC monitoring system with only counting functions and *SILWeb* module, to start with, putting aside data base functions, the recording of laboratory controls, moulds and breakdowns follow up for budgetary reasons.”

With the SILC system, Vertech supplied a PC server and hot- and cold-end counting photo-eyes.

The inspection machines were connected online to the SILC.

The SILC gives plant operators the opportunity to:



Vertech
IS Machine: percentage

- the possibility to follow hour per hour the production of the previous day;
- the possibility to follow production in real time... from the office;
- the output: two per cent minimum;
- quality: Socaver quality index grew from 7/10 to 7.5/10;
- benefits: about EUR 100,000 per year just considering the increase in yield.



History Weight

- know the losses along the line (rejections and breakdowns) and by MNRs;
- make hot end and cold end communicate thanks to emails;
- record the actions made by the operators: mould changes, lehr exit controls, etc;
- follow the weight at the hot end; The SILC was installed with the 'weight at the hot end' function, which involves a frequent weight procedure for every gob:
- the scale is calibrated automatically;
- the operator is asked to put a bottle on the scale via the overhead LED display;
- the value of the weight is

- acquired automatically;
- the variation compared to the working weight is displayed via the overhead LED display;
- the evolution curve of the weights of each gob is displayed automatically on the screen.

PLANT EXPERIENCE AT SOCAVER

"After the system was started up, the operators quickly followed the indications supplied by the SIL system".

After six months of experience, SILC was considered as a benefit for management due to:

- the attribution of real quantities produced by every shift;

VERTECH KNOW-HOW

Vertech brought its know-how in data acquisition and experience to the container glass industry, installing a specific solution, adapted to the customer's requirements and to his budget, allowing the Socaver plant to:

- improve communication between departments of the plant;
- improve outputs by two per cent and quality produced;
- gain access to key indicators of productions for every actor of the plant. ■

VERTECH'

6, Rue Pierre Semard
F-71880 Chatenoy-le-Royal
France
Tel: +33 - 3 - 85981917
Fax: +33 - 3 - 85981918
E-mail: sales@vertech-fr.com
www.vertech.fr