

Eybl International maximizes production efficiency with BarcoVision MES systems



Case study

Eybl International AG, leading manufacturer of high quality textiles for car interiors, has installed BarcoVision MES (Manufacturing Execution System) for real time scheduling, monitoring and quality control in its integrated automotive textile plant in Krems, Austria.

According to Paul Niemiec, Corporate Controlling, Reporting and Planning Manager, the BarcoVision systems assure real time transparency throughout the whole manufacturing process and provide the management with accurate and instant information regarding output, efficiency and quality level.

The Eybl group supplies the majority of European car producers. With a focus on the premium classes, Eybl's high quality products are found in the models of all leading car producers. The Eybl group furnishes about 4 million vehicles per year with seat covers or seat cover fabrics.

In 2004, the company decided to start looking for an automated data collection system to feed its Brain XPPS ERP system with real time data. Until then, information from the 180 production machines was collected manually on a daily basis; a time consuming exercise often resulting in inconsistent data. Besides covering all the requirements described in the "User Requirement Specification" document, the system should comply with four major criteria set by Eybl management: guaranteed integration of all types of machines, cost effective implementation without disturbing the production process, easy to use and seamless integration with the XPPS ERP system.

Goals and system selection

After an intensive market search and potential systems evaluation, Eybl turned to BarcoVision for the realization of this prestigious project. The project plan called for a total implementation time of 18 months, covering the roll out of the system in all production departments, starting with warp preparation, over weaving and circular knitting, grey fabric inspection, finishing, laminating, up to final inspection.

Paul Niemiec comments: "We looked at a number of systems and visited reference installations. We were impressed with the advanced technological solution using intelligent wireless data collection devices to provide a high degree of flexibility for shop floor layouts. Based on standard Microsoft Windows, the system looked easy to use. Finally, we felt confident with BarcoVision and the expertise of their staff in the textile manufacturing field."

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System implementation

The company-wide solution was implemented over a period of 18 months. The project was split up in four phases.

The first phase included the wireless connection of all weaving and weaving preparation machines to the WEAVEMASTER system and the interface with Eybl's XPPS ERP system. "This installation immediately provided us with accurate information regarding down time and efficiency losses showing huge

▼ Wireless DU8P monitoring on a sectional warper



potentials for improvement. The real time interface with the ERP system and the extremely user friendly WEAVEMASTER PLANBOARD allows a far more accurate day to day planning" Mr. Niemiec emphasizes.

Based on the positive experience in the weaving department, Eybl implemented the BarcoVision KNITMASTER system for the circular knitting department in a second phase and connected all finishing machines in the third phase of the project.

In a final stage, all grey and final fabric inspection frames were connected to the system by means of wireless touch screen based inspection terminals. On these terminals, the inspectors receive information from the central system such as inspection instructions, customer information and piece-specific data. The inspectors enter defects by tapping the corresponding defect button on the screen. For each piece inspected, the QUALIMASTER system generates a piece map showing all the defects with their individual location within the piece.

All data collection devices are equipped with hardware and software for "Backup & Recovery". This allows the Data Units to continue working on an autonomous basis in case of eventual server or network failure. This feature guarantees a system uptime of more than 99%.

Benefits

Since the implementation of the system, Mr. Niemiec has experienced a lot of benefits. Within six months after implementation of the first phase, the weave room efficiency increased by 6.2%.

Because of the user friendly Data Unit interface, the system was accepted within the shortest time period by the operators. The planning is updated in real time and potential bottlenecks are identified on the spot.

The export of data from the BarcoVision MES system to the XPPS ERP system eliminates most of the manual reporting work. Through the touch screen inspection terminals installed in the final inspection department, the inspectors have online access to all relevant order and customer information, eliminating all possible errors.

Service

Finally, Mr. Niemiec comments: "The system is working extremely well and proves to be reliable and fail safe. Through a VPN connection, BarcoVision service people can log into our system from their service location in Kortrijk, Belgium. So, in case we have a problem or question, we do not have to wait 24 hours for them to come over to Austria and solve it".



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