

Date: December 18, 2012
Location: Northern, WI

Qualitek Integrated Control System at Box Plant in Northern, WI

A box plant in Northern Wisconsin installed a Qualitek Integrated Control System on their corrugator August, 2011. This was an upgrade to a previously installed (2009) Qualitek “Bridge Control System”. The installation of the Qualitek system was part of a 12 month plan to improve board quality and increase speed. During this period the plant also upgraded the dry-end stacker and knife.

The Qualitek Control System includes all the functions of the Production Control System (Synchronized Splicing and Bridge Control) and the Quality Control System (Board Quality Controls including paper temperature, doublefacer loading, metering roll gaps and steam zones).



When deciding on a control system provider, plant management used their positive experience with the previously installed Qualitek “Bridge Control System” and its “Off-the-Shelf” approach using readily available hardware components such as Allen Bradley PLCs. Furthermore, they liked Qualitek’s ability to integrate with their existing PLC equipment instead of adding hardware and wiring. On the decision, the plant’s **Maintenance Manager** had this to say:

“It was Qualitek’s approach of listening to our needs and delivering a system that met those requirements that really set them apart. The Qualitek system seamlessly integrated into our existing PLC network and they modified their interfaces to directly communicate with our existing PLC’s.”

The system installation, checkout, startup and training took approximately 5 weeks. On working with Qualitek’s engineers during installation and startup the plant’s **PLC technician** had this to say:

“We had some very demanding requirements when it came to using our existing PLC’s. Qualitek’s engineers worked side-by-side with us and modified their code to fit those requirements.”

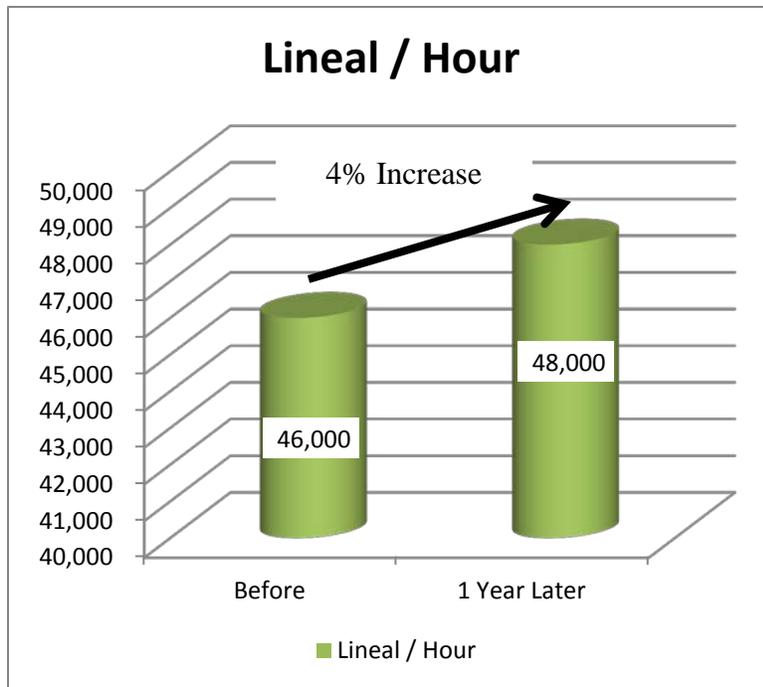
The system has been in operation since the installation was complete in September. As soon as the system was brought online by Qualitek, the operators immediately started using all the functions. The corrugator crews are very happy with the system and find it very easy to use. The installation was so successful that the plant's **Corrugator Team Operations Manager** had this to say:

“Qualitek has enhanced our ability to control virtually every facet of our corrugator. The system’s ability to react quickly to changes in our process greatly improves the overall quality of our boxes.”

12 Month Improvement Plan

When looking at the overall results of the Qualitek system the **Plant Manager** had this to say:

“The most noticeable benefit of the Qualitek system has been the overall improvement in the quality of our board. With this higher quality board we have been able to improve the throughput of our converting machines.”



Quality hasn't been the only improvement. With all of these upgrades and additions, the Corrugator team has increased their overall run speed more than 4% from the previous year.

For More Information Contact Qualitek

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