



Results-Driven Automation



Performance Services

Improved Stability, Business Growth and Greater Range of Products achieved by Pasadena Paper

“We place a high value on technical competence and that is how our relationship with ABB was established.”

Fred Row
Mill Manager
Pasadena Paper

When Pasadena Paper’s management looked for ways to grow their business, they looked to ABB for technical advice. The Pasadena, Texas operation wanted to produce a greater range of products and wanted to be sure the facility was equipped to handle the task.

Background

Initially, ABB’s involvement at Pasadena Paper was limited to a process study of MD variations. The mill had an assortment of automation equipment from different suppliers. ABB performed an audit that scrutinized the sources of variations and stability of the existing control system. As a result of the study, the mill made several process piping changes that resulted in improved stability. The results were immediate, and ABB received another assignment. This dealt with installing a new Quality Control System and a distributed control system (DCS).

The mill decided to replace its existing quality control system with an advanced Quality Control System (QCS) from ABB. Additionally, the mill ordered a DCS from ABB to be integrated with the ABB QCS. Both systems are based on ABB’s Industrial^{IT} architecture.



ABB’s automation offering is unique to the industry because ABB is the only solution provider supplying QCS, DCS and other equipment such as drives built on a common architecture. Most paper companies already recognize the value of minimizing the screens an operator needs to use. However, ABB’s Industrial IT approach is more than an integrated user interface. ABB’s approach to integration allows engineers, maintenance and management to benefit from a common architecture and display scheme for all users from the floor of the mill to the front office.

Startup profiles improved

With ABB providing the Pasadena operation with the QCS and the hardware for the DCS, the mill’s engineers implemented the DCS configuration. Since both the QCS and DCS were based on ABB Industrial IT architecture, integration was easier than in the past. Existing instrumen-



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Success Stories



tation was also integrated in the DCS by using Profibus communications.

The mill's new QCS includes two Measurement IT Scanning Platforms, both with basis weight and moisture sensors. A reel frame scanner includes ash, color and formation sensors.

ABB also installed Profile IT Smart Weight Actuators.

The mill was pleased with the results. Referring to production startup, Fred Row, the Mill Manager at Pasadena Paper, notes, "Startup profiles were the best we had ever seen on this machine." In addition to stabilized profiles, the mill was now able to isolate other process issues previously masked by an ever-shifting CD profile. Pasadena realized further variation reductions by using ABB's 5-second MD controls to eliminate an old and bothersome long-term variation problem.

Improved quality, expanded product line

Fred explained how the mill has benefited as a result of the ABB installation. "Pasadena has improved the quality of the existing coated products, started producing new grades and will introduce a new line of digital papers," he points out.

"Having the versatility to run a greater range of products has really expanded our customer base as well as increased the profitability of our operation."

Future potential

Fred sees future potential for integrating the web imaging system defect data in the QCS, as well as implementing advanced controls. "Making paper is like counting stars, you're never done," he observes. "There is always something else to measure."

Fred sums up the results of his partnership with ABB, remarking, "I get compliments from my customers. What better way to show the value of our investment in ABB."

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