

BarcoVision system keeps control at Holloid Plastics



Case study

Holloid Plastics, injection moulding specialists, have been an advocate of production monitoring since 1982 when they installed a BarcoVision (Dextralog) FSX monitoring system. Since then they have continuously upgraded the system, latterly with the PlantMaster Windows® based Manufacturing Execution System (MES).

“The use of the BarcoVision system has been one of the major contributing factors that has enabled us to remain competitive over all these years. We’ve had great value from the system. I don’t think we could function efficiently without it,” said Julian van Wyngaarden, Managing Director of the family company, which was started by his father in 1950.

Holloid Plastics manufacture between two to three million components a month across a wide range of industries, including office equipment, child care, lighting, burglar alarms and water softeners.

“Holloid strive to provide a very high quality manufacturing service, so that we can give customers what they need at the right price. It is also important that our short runs are profitable, which is one of the reasons why we have installed robotic handling equipment on our machines. Whatever the run length, it is essential to keep very tight control of our production from planning through to injection moulding, which is why we rely on the BarcoVision system to monitor accurately all our machines ranging from 30 to 650 tonnes,” he explained.

HOLLOID PLASTICS

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scheduling visibility

“Holloid also have to be very flexible to manufacture such a wide range of components with a lot of tool changes. Twelve tool changes in a day would not be unusual. In order to process urgent orders, we constantly have to re-prioritise our workload and that is where the automated BarcoVision scheduling system is such a bonus because you can see the jobs in the pipeline,” he explained.

A BarcoVision Data Unit on each of the machines monitors a range of activities and reasons for down-time. These include set-up times, cycle times and the required order quantity against the actual, so that our machine minders can immediately see the balance. PlantMaster also monitors the amount of material needed to finish the job avoiding both stock out and over stock situations.

OEE on target

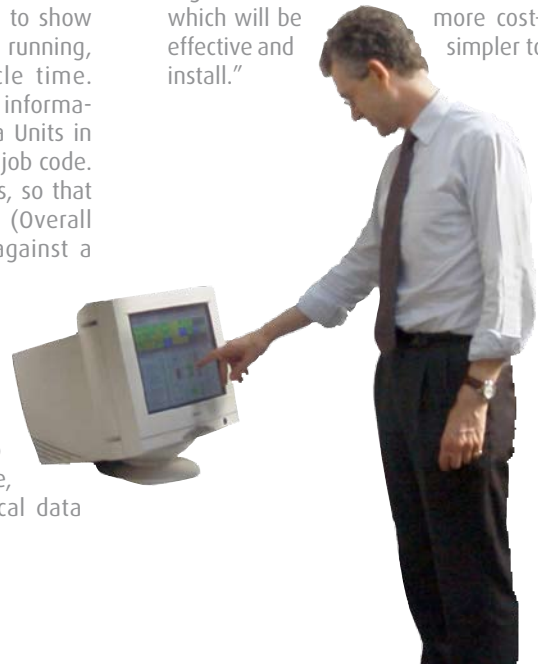
The PLANTMASTER machine layout is displayed on a monitor on the shop floor and colour coded to show at a glance if machines are running, idle or exceeding the cycle time. PLANTMASTER displays all the information collected from the Data Units in real-time, together with the job code. Holloid produce daily reports, so that they can compare the OEE (Overall Equipment Effectiveness) against a number of targets.

“We are constantly looking to improve our service levels and there is a lot of information the BarcoVision system can give us that could help us in this area. For example, we can look at the historical data

to analyse performance where one job is manufactured on a number of machines, to see whether some machines run better than others and the reasons why. We currently transfer the data from our sales order processing system to the BarcoVision software manually but are in the process of implementing an MRP system and automatically linking the BarcoVision system to it.”

Holloid also intend to add a process monitoring facility to the BarcoVision system, in order to measure changes of cooling water temperature, (amongst other parameters), at each moulding machine to further improve consistency of production

wireless Finally Julian plans to upgrade the existing Data Units on the BarcoVision system, some of which are twenty years old and still going strong. “The hard-wired Data Units have been exceptional value but they won’t go on for ever. I am now talking to BMS about their latest wireless technology for collecting data from the machines, which will be more cost-effective and simpler to install.”



About BMS-BarcoVision

BMS, established in 2007 as a carve-out from the Barco group, is a leading supplier of Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES) for discrete manufacturing, with focus on the textiles, plastics and pharmaceutical industry. Under the brand name, BarcoVision, BMS offers a wide range of systems aimed at productivity and quality improvement.

BMS is present at key locations around the world, either with own branch offices or through a world wide network of agents and service centers.

www.visionbms.com

BarcoVision
In Pursuit of Productivity

BMS bvba
Theodoor Sevenslaan 106
8500 Kortrijk
Belgium
Tel. +32 56 262 611
Fax +32 56 262 690
sales.bv@visionbms.com

BMS Vision Ltd
Capricorn Park, Blakewater Road
Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 5QR
United Kingdom
Tel. +44 1254 662 244
Fax +44 1254 267 100
sales.bla@visionbms.com

BMSVision LLC
4420 Taggart Creek Road, Suite 101
Charlotte, North Carolina 28208
United States
Tel. +1 704 392 9371
Fax +1 704 399 5588
sales@visionbmsusa.com

Loepfe srl
Via El Alamein 11/C
22100 Como
Italy
Tel. +39 031 337 0457
Fax +39 031 305 565
antonietta.bergaminelli@loepfe.com