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Energy management – Highly topical standard setting the course for the future

www.proleit.com

Times of crisis are times of innovation – especially if this involves cost savings. And it was, therefore, only natural that the participants in the "Production-based energy management" expert conference organized by ProLeiT in Herzogenaurach quickly agreed that energy savings and energy efficiency are high up on the priority list. In his inaugural address, Dr.-Ing. Winfried Ruß from the faculty of Raw Material and Energy Technology at the Munich Technical University emphasized the importance of this point as well. "The new standard DIN EN 16001 will commit all companies to submit evidence of at least one energy saving measure per year." Consultations are currently in full swing in order to ensure that the standard can be made binding in the near future. Up to now, political decision makers have relied on voluntary agreements and energy saving commitments made by individual industrial sectors. But the political pressure on all parties involved is now mounting.

Energy efficiency is also a major entrepreneurial task in order to improve the economic situation of a company. "Because, after all, the most cost-efficient energy is that which is saved", stressed Michael Sembenotti in his presentation. Energy efficiency can only be achieved through continuous improvement of the ongoing production process. The acquisition of consumption values often reveals hidden potential. With the aid of energy data acquisition systems, the entire production process must be monitored without impairing the plant's performance. "The transparency of energy consumption reveals further optimization potential", explained Sembenotti. The elimination of weak points increases the availability of plants and therefore also their capacity output.

Frank Jäger from Franken Brunnen impressively demonstrated the benefits of the ProLeiT energy management system in daily practice. Over a period of six months, the reputed beverage producer from the German town of Neustadt/Aisch used this system to collect all consumption data from the boiler house and the transformer stations. The data acquired was a valuable decision-making aid which supported the soft-drink producer in its decision to invest in a new boiler. In the meantime, Franken Brunnen is certain that the capacity of the new steam boiler can easily be reduced by one third. But this is not all: The peak load optimization program reduces current peaks and the peak-time gas reserve required and thus saves € 17,000 per annum.

In their presentation towards the end of the conference, Roland Riedl and Michael Sembenotti demonstrated how energy management can be integrated into the existing automation environments of dairies and breweries within the framework of refurbishment projects based on a stage concept and with minimal production downtimes.

In brief: No other event in recent times has provided so much valuable information! And – for all those who could not take part: Another event of this kind is scheduled to take place in March 2010!

Focusing on process-orientated materials management

www.bk-giulini.com

In Ladenburg, one of the most important BK Giulini production sites, the mixing plant is the centralized process level for the production of phosphate-based food additives. The obsolete mixing plant controller urgently required modernization, and the company took this opportunity not only to retrofit its PLC controllers, but also to update its entire process control software to meet current and future requirements.

The approximately 200 signals to be captured by the automation components only play a minor role in this context: Highly flexible process preparation and control are the key requirements with respect to the recipe-controlled process control system.

Production changes have to be prepared in detail to prevent the use of incompatible materials. Before starting a new batch, an incompatibility check with regard to the previous production order is therefore performed automatically. Based on a contamination matrix, the system suggests measures for assuring the quality of the process and the products involved. Consistent batch traceability, based on the continuous logging of all material flows, is a core prerequisite in achieving the utmost flexibility of production sequences and the components involved.

The plant entered operation only recently. The consistently process-orientated material management system implemented as the central module of the new Plant Batch iT Version 8 has provided the basis for the highest flexibility and material transparency.

Glocken Bakery relies on Plant iT V8

www.glockenbrot.com

With an annual turnover of about € 160 million, the Glocken Bakery, an affiliate of the REWE Group, is one of Germany's most important bakeries. At its head office in Frankfurt, the company has realized a new, future-oriented automation concept. With the latest version of the Plant iT automation system, combined with ProLeiT engineering and the sophisticated technology of the Glocken Bakery, the entire production process could be consistently automated.

The recipe interfaces and control parameters standardized in close cooperation with Glocken's in-house specialists, along with the implementation of significantly improved diagnostic options, have optimized the productive efficiency of the wholesale bakery. Thanks to Plant iT V8, these plants are integrated even more efficiently into the REWE ERP system and thus provide for smooth order input. At the same time, a new standard has been set for reporting and IFS traceability. Summa summarum: Thanks to Plant iT V8, REWE has significantly improved the efficiency of its plants and streamlined its value added chain.

Ensinger-Mineralquellen: Controller concept successfully modernized

www.ensinger.com

Ensinger Mineral-Heilquellen GmbH awarded ProLeiT AG a contract for the retrofit of the control system at the company's beverage production site in Vaihingen an der Enz (Baden-Württemberg). The scope of delivery included the automation of an inline mixer, the syrup room, a high-temperature short-time (HTST) pasteurizer and the water treatment plant. The company decided in favor of the Plant Batch iT system component which has been specifically customized and optimized to meet the requirements of beverage mixing plants and syrup rooms. With its interfacing to the existing Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system and the integrated materials management system, Plant Batch iT ensures comprehensive batch tracking. As a special feature of his Plant Batch iT implementation, the customer highly appreciates the container handling system via WLAN scanner and the dynamic residuals processing. Thanks to extensive preparation, the conversion could be performed on a long weekend without any significant production downtimes.

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