



Issue Number 15

Prodigy News

The Complete Automation Solution

World's largest plastic recycling plant controlled by Prodigy

A £15million investment in plastic recycling equipment to create the Worlds largest plastic bottle sorting and recycling facility features a monitoring and control system powered by Prodigy industrial automation software.

With doorstep collections now recycling large volumes of plastic waste that would otherwise have gone to landfill it has become viable to process it in the UK rather than ship it overseas.

Currently the majority of the plastic bottles processed end up being granulated into a flake at the plant, prior to sale to plastic companies both in the UK and overseas. The plastic recovered from the bottles ends up in a wide variety of new plastic products including fleece jackets, pipes, packaging, toys etc.

Tascomp were awarded the contract by Alternative Waste Solutions and the system was configured, supplied and installed in under 4 weeks.



Based at Hemswell, Lincolnshire, UK the 45,000 square feet recycling facility is one of the most technically advanced plants in Europe.

With an expected throughput of 100,000 ton per annum the system monitors and controls recycling equipment including conveyors, sorting, shredding and weighing machinery.

The system runs on a single PC collecting data over Ethernet from over 60 motors and various weigh load sensors back to a central control room. System information is distributed across the site to any desktop PC.

Plans are well advanced for further investment in hot wash and extrusion equipment to create food grade HDPE and PET for the production of food grade bottles, as well as PET flake for thermoforming.



Test system saves automotive supplier money and space

GT Precision Products, part of the GT Group of companies, are suppliers of exhaust valves for diesel engine vehicles. These include EPM valves which act as exhaust brakes by controlling back pressure into the engine, and EGR valves which reduce emissions by re-circulating exhaust gasses.

To test a new range of valves the company wanted to replace their existing test rigs, which used high volume air pressure to replicate engine operating conditions. This required a large air reservoir and compressor installation which was not only expensive to operate but also occupied a large area of the manufacturing site.



New test rigs using a low volume pneumatic system were designed with the mechanical assembly of the rigs carried out by GT Group and Tascomp developing the PC based control and monitoring system.

Each valve is tested during manufacture. The valve movement is monitored as air is passed through the test piece in a sequence precisely controlled by Prodigy. It also records the test data and validates each test, automatically passing or failing each valve tested.

A single page "Proof of process" report provides accurate test data and traceability for every valve shipped.

The success of the new system has allowed the decommissioning of the original air reservoir and compressor not only significantly reducing running costs but also freeing up valuable extra space at their Peterlee, UK factory.

Leading autoclave supplier uses Prodigy software

Autoclaves Limited of Bingley, UK are major suppliers of new and refurbished industrial autoclaves, serving industries including high technology aerospace and automotive companies.

The company has chosen Prodigy software to upgrade the control systems on new and existing installations, due to its proven track record for autoclave control and cost effectiveness.

Making use of both Prodigy Fast Track Development and OEM Software Program to speed system development, the first installation was completed within six weeks of initial contact.



Fast Track Development combines Prodigy Developer training and project development, under the guidance of a Prodigy engineer, so new users finish training with their first project well on the way to completion.

The Prodigy OEM Software Program allows custom development of any level of specialised functionality that may be required.

These programs offer fast and inexpensive options for any company that needs to replace outdated software or want to enter new markets and do not have the resources to develop software in house.

Tier 1 Automotive Manufacturer stays "Just in Time" with Prodigy

The need for automotive components manufacturers to deliver to demanding Just in Time (JIT) schedules means that the availability of accurate production information is crucial

Futaba Tenneco UK is a joint venture operation of two of the worlds leading automotive suppliers, set up to supply UK & European car plants with pressed and welded sub assemblies.



A Prodigy based 'Plantrun' system monitors the machines which are configured as 72 work cells providing machine utilisation reporting and analysis. The system allows the company to track production efficiency and helps it meet the demanding JIT requirements of the automotive industry.

The factory public address system is used to alert staff members for parts restocking and maintenance issues. The new system interfaces with the public address and makes announcements automatically as and when required to ensure the smooth flow of materials and parts.

The company site in Burnley, UK has benefitted from a major investment program since the merger of the two companies and operates 115 state of the art robot welding/assembly units. As well as a suite of presses ranging up to 2,500 tonne to provide the most capable and efficient pressing service available.



What's New?

Prodigy Version 8 Launched

Prodigy version 8 has been launched after a successful period of beta testing. Several new facilities and countless enhancements have been added. Here are just four...

Prodigy Over the Web

This new facility allows any Prodigy system to act as a web server, providing real time displays and historic trend facilities to any PC running Internet Explorer.



This provides an alternative to the Prodigy Remote Workstation and Viewstation packages and makes standard Prodigy displays viewable securely from any location over an intranet or the internet.

SQL Server

Prodigy version 8 is fully SQL Server capable. A simple 'one tick' option allows you to chose between Access or SQL databases and Prodigy hides the details of how these databases are manipulated leaving you to configure Prodigy as you would for an Access based system.

Multi View Displays

Prodigy version 8 supports multiple display windows, which can be used as overlays or pop-ups onto any Mimic display. This makes it possible to share parts of this display between different screens or access floating windows which can be moved/minimised, etc. without affecting the main display.

New XForm

Prodigy's form creation tool, has been completely re-written for Prodigy version 8.

This has made XForm easier to use, provides more control over a forms appearance and accommodates the move to MS SQL Server for data storage. Forms can now include colour, images, dynamic value and colour update and enhanced links into Prodigy's SLANG control language.

Prodigy Reseller News

Tritec Systems

Established in 1989, Tritec Systems, based in Basingstoke, UK have built a broad customer base.

Although experienced in using all major packages the company chose Prodigy for a recent specialised project - the monitoring and control of cryogenics for cooling of synchrotron particle beam accelerators.

These futuristic devices accelerate high intensity light beams for very high definition microscopy and 3D imaging.



I-SYS Control

Operating from Newtownabbey, Northern Ireland, I-SYS Control specialise in food, beverage and pharma industry sectors across the province.

Having used another well known SCADA package for several projects they found prices were rising as support deteriorated. The company sought out an alternative, choosing Prodigy for its comprehensive facilities, competitive pricing and responsive high quality technical support.



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