



Case Study McVities Biscuits, Glasgow



McVities in Glasgow, Scotland a subsidiary of the United Biscuits group got into a sticky mess when they wanted to improve the process of manufacturing paste for their famous Fig Rolls. Alba Controls stepped in to make sure the supermarket shelves didn't run short of this popular product.

Background

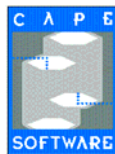
The existing plant consisted of an old mixing machine with a small Mitsubishi PLC fitted. This was loosely interfaced with the paste transport system, which used a Siemens 95u processor and OP17 HMI for operator control.

When McVities contacted us, the mixing machine had already been re-tooled. and we were asked to implement sequence and operational changes as quickly as possible.

Solution

This looked like a **SIEMENS** simple task until we found out that not only had the mixer PLC no memory space but there was no documentation for the program or I/O. We quickly came up with a solution to scrap the Mitsubishi and incorporate the whole mixer into the Siemens S95u. This would solve the memory issue, improve program documentation and allow fault and exception integration into the OP17 HMI.

After a quick site visit, the I/O was analysed and re-routed into the Siemens PLC. We completed the programming and developed a high quality off-site simulation model using VPLink to provide the customer with the confidence and assurance that the



machine would operate on-site first time.

A Job Well Done

The mixer checked out on-site without error and at the customers' request, we upgraded the control panel to reflect the new functionality and converted from Swedish to English to eliminate previous operator confusion.



During commissioning our engineers worked in close co-operation with the customer to help identify faulty and under-performing plant devices. This led to the installation of new analogue level controls to optimise the paste transport system



The result was another satisfied customer and a compliment to Alba for our levels of cleanliness and quality while maintaining deadlines.

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