

Industry: Textiles

Products Used: FX PLCs /// SCADA

Mitsubishi PLCs help British company clean up in Italy

Mitsubishi Electric's worldwide best seller, the FX PLC, has been used to bring significant benefits to an industry which is not normally thought of as being at the forefront of technology.



Cherrytree Machine Co. of Blackburn, England, has applied Mitsubishi PLC technology to their continuous batch washer, significantly improving its performance and efficiency. This has helped them gain a valuable export order from Italy, enhancing their already considerable reputation in that country.

The continuous batch washer uses a helical screw principle to move washing from one cleansing tank to the next. The FX PLC controls the position of the screw (which uses rapid reversing to ensure a thorough wash) and all heating and chemical dosing operations. The FX controls the temperature in each tank via its high resolution FX-4AD analogue input modules expansion modules. These have an integral 32 bit mathematics capability that ensures precise control of the steam used in the heating process, and reduces energy losses by precise heat management.

Application story first released April 1993 by Mitsubishi Electric UK

To allow rapid overviewing and interactive control of the whole process a Mitsubishi SCADA package is used. This powerful SCADA logs all relevant data, displays and monitors the process in a clear graphical manor, and allows the operator to control and alter the wash parameters quickly and easily.

Mitsubishi Electric's FX PLC system and SCADA were chosen for their speed of response and flexibility to adapt easily to different configuration requirements. The FX's small size was also very important, as it allowed the dimensions of the operator console to be minimised, reducing material costs. The SCADA system was chosen because of its low cost, recipe handling facility and its ability to interface easily with the FX PLC.

Mitsubishi's mastery of PLC and SCADA technology has allowed engineers working in an industry not traditionally associated with electronics and software control, to make full use of the latest developments in industrial automation. This rewards them by delivering a highly efficient solution, with very high throughputs, that is easy use, maintain and also to upgrade.