

VALUE PROPOSITION

AUTOMOTIVE

SOLUTIONS

FactoryTalk® Metrics

- Collects information from the controllers and allows engineers to use the data to generate reports on production processes

FactoryTalk AssetCentre

- Allows engineers to manage processes and monitor maintenance activities

RESULTS

Increase in OEE and productivity

- Facility is executing 11.5 million data collection transactions per day to monitor inventory, production, budget, and more

Increase Six Sigma® efficiency by 50 percent

- Reduces time for each Six Sigma project from six months to three

ROCKWELL AUTOMATION HELPS AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLIER BOOST PRODUCTIVITY BY 50 PERCENT WITH PLANT-WIDE INFORMATION SOLUTION



BACKGROUND

ThyssenKrupp Budd is among the largest international automotive suppliers in the world. In North America alone, the company operates 27 facilities, employs approximately 7,800 people, generates annual revenue of \$3 billion, and manufactures products found on more than 75 current new vehicle models.

At its facility in Hopkinsville, Ky., the company produces a wide variety of automotive components, including chassis modules, frame assemblies, and steel stampings. With an output volume averaging 10,000 to 13,000 parts per day, the plant turned to Rockwell Automation for a solution that would accurately collect performance data to improve overall operations.

CHALLENGE

On a daily basis, ThyssenKrupp Budd must anticipate external market-driven forces from giant automotive manufacturers like Ford,



programs being uploaded to critical applications.

Integrated into the facility within three days, the Rockwell Automation solution immediately provided real-time data reporting via Allen-Bradley® PanelView™ operator interfaces using FactoryTalk View. In addition, ThyssenKrupp Budd installed a Microsoft® SQL Server and Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services package in early 2006 to further enhance data reporting at the facility. With the combination of FactoryTalk Metrics and the Microsoft package, ThyssenKrupp Budd gets a solid data management foundation that is flexible, promotes report structure reuse, and integrates easily with Six Sigma® decision support tools. With the Web-based reporting function and flexible reporting design, the package further reduces the need for administration and provides a standard tool set for generating reports and integrating with ThyssenKrupp Budd's operating system, which allows viewing of plant-floor information from multiple offices.

RESULTS

By implementing Rockwell Automation and Microsoft reporting solutions, ThyssenKrupp Budd has increased overall equipment efficiency (OEE) and productivity at Hopkinsville and is currently executing more than 11.5 million data collection transactions per day on an extremely small data footprint to monitor inventory, production, budget, equipment operation and more.

ThyssenKrupp Budd's Six Sigma process has especially reaped the benefits of the integration — reducing time for each Six Sigma project 50 percent, from six months to three months for standard processes, and providing a cost-effective way to validate Six Sigma project results. For example, in recording machine cycle

General Motors and Chrysler who could demand a volume increase at any time. With ongoing pressures to reduce downtime and boost productivity, meeting the needs of the marketplace with an efficient method of data collection quickly became a primary concern at ThyssenKrupp Budd.

According to Darren Allison, manager of information technology for ThyssenKrupp Budd at Hopkinsville, this posed a difficult challenge for the company, which relied on manual data collection processes to record data on productivity, scrap and rework. The implementation of a solution that would meet the needs of the marketplace, address data collection requirements, and remain open and scalable with other systems would be no easy task. "It was difficult for us to respond quickly to throughput demands, and it became clear that we needed to find a solution for automated collection and reporting of production data," said Allison. "We had manual paperwork sheets for everything, which required double and triple entry of data across the company — increasing costs and significantly reducing productivity," said Allison.

SOLUTION

ThyssenKrupp Budd turned to Rockwell Automation for a comprehensive plant-wide reporting solution available through the FactoryTalk® integrated production and performance software suite. Bringing a simple view into plant operations with very little day-to-day administration effort, the service-oriented architecture within FactoryTalk provides ThyssenKrupp Budd with a common set of shared services for improved access to plant-floor information.

At the Hopkinsville facility, data coming from 150 different operations, 200 work cells and 180 plant-level controllers is now drawn into the FactoryTalk Metrics software application, where engineers can use data to improve processes and generate reports on production processes so they can more easily adjust their manufacturing operations to meet their customers' demands. In addition, by leveraging FactoryTalk AssetCentre, Allison can better manage processes and monitor maintenance activities to reduce the potential of mishaps related to incorrect or outdated

times, events are now configured to automatically track the time for each welding operation, instantly produce reports, analyze and export the data to the appropriate person, and implement improvements to optimize operations. With the 24/7 tracking and reporting in place, ThyssenKrupp Budd management not only leverages data to improve production processes on all shifts, but can now quickly respond to the demands of large automakers with the ability to gather and report production data to them on short notice.

“In effect, we’ve established a common template for plant performance reporting that maximizes our productivity and efficiency,” said Allison. “We have less downtime, and are extremely pleased with the products and support we’ve received from Rockwell Automation. Each new application we add to the solution is seamlessly integrated with our existing infrastructure, and that is exactly what we need to continue to succeed in the automotive marketplace.”

The results mentioned above are specific to ThyssenKrupp Budd's use of Rockwell Automation products in conjunction with other products. Specific results may vary for other customers.



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