

Industry: Food & Drink

Products Used: FX PLCs /// SCADA /// HMIs /// Drives

# AB Technology choose Mitsubishi for control

AB Technology use Mitsubishi Electric Inverters, PLCs and MX SCADA to automate their food additive manufacturing process (used in the bakery industry) which until recently, was entirely manually controlled.



The first stage of automation came in 1995 when a Mitsubishi FX PLC was installed on a part of the dough esterification plant. In this process fats are first mixed in a loading vessel, pumped to a reaction vessel, heated and then cooled before transfer to the distillation plant. The PLC controls interlocks on the pumps and valves and gives operators a graphical plant interface in the form of a Mitsubishi MAC 90 HMI.

After seeing the immediate advantages of using the Mitsubishi Electric equipment, AB Technology started activities to automate all their plant and now have around 20 FX and FX2N PLCs on site. These PLCs control a wide range of activities including weighing of ingredients and AB effectively use the FX2Ns integral PID function to control production feed rates.

To give a complete plant overview an MX SCADA system has also been installed and now allows AB Technology to compare activities across all shifts and copy work patterns for maximum efficiency. The new SCADA system has proved very popular with operators who can see at a glance the stage that each production batch has reached.

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Dave Simpson  
AB Technology

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"The Mitsubishi equipment has proved very easy to integrate. We have A500 inverters as well as the FX and FX2N PLCs and they have really been 'plug and play'. They are also very reliable, so once installed you can just forget them," says AB Technology's Dave Simpson.

The new automated control has also allowed AB Technology to achieve cost savings by changing parts of their process to be more efficient. Using Mitsubishi A500 inverters has also resulted in significant cost savings on energy, and using an automated system has the benefit of removing any potential operator errors.

Application story first released November 1999 by Mitsubishi Electric UK