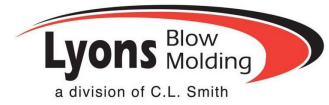


Lyons Blow Molding Drastically Improves Production Accuracy

Case Study



Summary

By switching from heavily manual reporting processes to Smart Factory, Lyons Blow Molding gained real-time data visibility into its machinery processes, while drastically cutting down on non-value added work and greatly reducing errors downstream, leading to greater customer satisfaction.

Company Overview

Lyons Blow Molding, a subsidiary of the C.L. Smith Company, is a manufacturer of HDPE bottles and containers utilized across multiple industries and is based out of St. Louis, Missouri, with 18 production lines and custom stock molds.



“Smart Factory gives us good traceability – the line it was made, the time printed, and unit number. We no longer have to worry about label mismanagement on the floor, incorrectly labeled products, or mixed load issues. This has improved accuracy and reduced mistakes.”

-Dave Aquilina, Director of Operations

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Challenges



Lyons Blow Molding needed a production monitoring and reporting system for two reasons:

1. To reduce its reliance on heavily manual, non-value added work associated with its labeling and reporting processes. In doing so, the company hoped to increase data accuracy while freeing up its employees to work on higher value tasks.
2. To gain the production data visibility needed to assess its order accuracy and reduce errors made during production.

Results

Lyons Blow Molding integrated Nulogy Smart Factory with its labeling system to automate its processes and reporting. By switching to Smart Factory to track and report production activity, the company was able to reduce errors, increase data accuracy, and minimize the number of problems downstream.

More specifically, Lyons Blow Molding observed benefits in the following areas:



Increased Accuracy and Reporting Automation

By switching from spreadsheets and heavily manual reporting and integrating its labeling system with Smart Factory, the company now enjoys increased data accuracy as well as access to an auditable history of production and shift performance, as well as production output—all searchable by line, shift, or product code.

As Dave Aquilina, VP of Operations, explains: “Accuracy has been a much-improved activity. Performance is now auditable. There’s a history of any given day or shift that we can go back and audit. Before, there was no auditing because it was a number in time put on a spreadsheet...as you can imagine, accuracy provides good inventory numbers and leads to less customer satisfaction issues.”

In addition, the automated reporting provided by Smart Factory has made real-time performance easily accessible through the company’s workstations as well as the mobile app.

“I can see real-time [data] on the application on my phone. I don’t have to call someone at the plant to know what is happening,” Aquilina adds. “Having a system you can trust and rely on is beneficial.”



Greater Process Control

Prior to Smart Factory, the company did not have a software system in place for measuring and tracking process-related data such as machinery temperature, pressures, and timers. There was no way for employees to know if a process issue was the cause of a defective product.

Now, with Smart Factory, Lyons Blow Molding has its real-time process data easily available in a dashboard, allowing staff to track current and historical data for any given line and pinpoint issues more effectively. Further, Lyons now also uses Smart Factory’s real-time notifications to send alerts when any machinery operates beyond its standard parameters.

Aquilina explains: “I can now know whether or not a process issue was the cause of a defective product. I can pull up that dashboard from whatever line it came off of at the time and see if there was anything improper.”



Extended Data Visibility

With the new level of data visibility provided by Smart Factory, Lyons Blow Molding can share its production data across the plant for the benefit of all employees.

Dave Aquilina says: “As everyone in the facility becomes more of a user, that opens up more opportunities for what they’re going to do with the product. I like that each person can get the pieces out that they need to see. The maintenance manager has parts he wants to see. My process manager has parts he wants to see. I look at things from a bigger picture. But, at the same time, it’s all the same data that gets compiled in a way that is more relevant to that particular person.”



“We use Smart Factory in a lot of ways. We’re continually evolving in how we use it. I would never have foreseen some of the areas we’ve gone into with Smart Factory. I like that we continue to evolve with the product.”

- Dave Aquilina
Director of Operations

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To learn more about how Nulogy’s cloud-based platform can deliver value to your manufacturing operation, contact us: