CASE STUDY

H&T Waterbury Reduces Micro Stoppages by 71%

SUMMARY

With **Nulogy's Smart Factory Solution** (formerly Mingo Smart Factory), H&T Waterbury was able to identify seemingly minor problems throughout the plant that, when corrected, led to significant productivity gains such as eliminating nine hours of downtime per week and **reducing micro-stoppages on the plant floor by 71%.**

Company Overview

HEITKAMP & THUMANN GROUP

Established in 1978, the Heitkamp & Thumann Group is a leading global partner for the development and supply of world class precision formed components, devices and services.

Challenges

Before working with the **Smart Factory Solution**, H&T relied on manual data entry for its production, which created opportunities for human error impacting data accuracy. Further, the H&T team lacked data visibility into its production numbers, meaning it was unable to determine how much of an impact its downtimes and machine stops were impacting the business's bottom line.

Results

With tangible real-time data provided by the **Smart Factory Solution**, the H&T Waterbury team was able to implement corrective actions to fix the problems affecting production, monitor the actions taken using alerts, and use the data going forward to monitor the effectiveness of those changes. Alerts helped H&T Waterbury monitor the effectiveness of changes made for long-term continuous improvement.

During the process of onboarding and utilizing the **Smart Factory Solution**, the company was able to:

Automate data collection

Before working with the **Smart Factory Solution**, H&T was manually entering data, introducing a lot of opportunities for mistakes. The process also didn't provide the ability to find and solve problems, quickly and efficiently.

By automating data collection, setting up timely reports, and freeing up more time for value-added tasks, the team at H&T is now able to quickly find, diagnose, and solve problems.

Drastically reduce downtime

Unplanned shortstops in H&T's high-volume, high-speed facility were known to cause scrap, unplanned overtime, and increased costs downstream, but how often these unplanned downtime events occurred was unknown.

Through the **Smart Factory Solution**, H&T Waterbury realized that stoppage issues it perceived as minor were actually much more severe than originally thought. By

taking corrective action on the real-time data visibility provided by the **Smart Factory Solution**, H&T reduced micro stoppages by 71% while eliminating nine hours of downtime a week.

Drive continuous improvement

With the introduction of tangible, real-time data, the H&T Waterbury team is now able to take corrective actions more quickly to fix the problems affecting production, monitor the actions taken using alerts, and use the data going forward to monitor the effectiveness of those changes.

Additionally, by installing real-time scoreboards in the company's offices and on the plant floor, in addition to emailed reports, everyone on the team is now able to see production status in real time. As a result, the transparency and effectiveness of keeping everyone in the loop have created a culture of communication and teamwork at H&T Waterbury.

> I can now nail down the day and hour when a trend started because of [Smart Factory]. We can take action to either fix or imitate. We now have the foundation to match current trend data with historical data to match up with our corrective action.

Matt Hill
Operations Improvement Coordinator

> [Smart Factory] helped us realize that our small micro stoppage problem was actually a bigger problem than we anticipated.
>
> **Matt Hill**
> **Operations Improvement Coordinator**

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