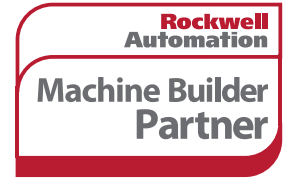


Solutions in Action



Allen-Bradley GuardLogix Safety Controller



Allen-Bradley Kinetix 6500
EtherNet/IP-Enabled Servo Drive



Allen-Bradley PowerFlex AC Drives



PCMC takes a unique approach to technology upgrades based on its Product Line Improvement Package (PLIP) program.

Meeting today's requirements with yesterday's equipment is a challenge many manufacturers share. But in the converting industry where new installations are often impractical and cost-prohibitive, making the most of existing assets is especially critical.

Paper Converting Machine Company (PCMC) prides itself on both the durability and performance of its equipment. A global leader in tissue converting, packaging, flexographic printing and non-woven technology, PCMC boasts an extensive installed base with an active equipment life that can extend beyond 50 years. Headquartered in Green Bay, Wisconsin, PCMC is a Barry-Wehmiller company.

Improving the performance of their long-lived equipment is a priority for PCMC. To facilitate modifications, the company maintains the original documentation of all equipment still in service – including hand drawings dating back to the early 1920s.

"We do whatever it takes to help our customers upgrade their equipment," said Jill Thiede, strategic accounts manager, PCMC. "We value our customers' trust – and have a strong track record of delivering on our promise to support our equipment."

LISTEN.
THINK.
SOLVE.

To streamline implementation and align equipment modifications with market demands, PCMC takes a unique approach based on its Product Line Improvement Package (PLIP) program. Each PLIP delivers a pre-designed, pre-tested solution built to integrate seamlessly with existing equipment and solve a specific application challenge including increasing rates, improving quality or enhancing safety.

“While we are good at responding to unique customer requirements, we also wanted to take a proactive approach,” said Ernesto Cuellar, aftermarket business analyst, PCMC. “Through our PLIP program, we can introduce customers to a wide range of improvement possibilities.”

The company offers dozens of PLIPs, which help optimize converting line efficiencies across the breadth of PCMC offerings. For example, one upgrade focuses on automating the web splice on an unwinder during a parent roll change to decrease downtime. Another improves the ink cooling system on a flexographic press to reduce material costs. Some PLIPs can even be applied to non-PCMC legacy equipment.

“Not surprisingly, our packaged upgrades are also attuned to current market pressure for faster, safer, smarter machines that can changeover quickly,” said Thiede. “We work to understand a specific customer’s challenges – and then help determine how to meet improvement goals.”

Mechanical enhancements to the equipment are generally one part of the equation. Control system upgrades the other. A Rockwell Automation machine builder partner, PCMC can efficiently help their customers achieve performance gains on both sides of the equation.

“In fact, we have a standard PLIP designed for control system upgrades,” Thiede explained. “We also have an upgrade package focused on the operator interface.”

To improve overall performance, system intelligence and safety functionality, the Rockwell Automation upgrade features an integrated safety solution based on the Allen-Bradley® GuardLogix® platform. Depending on the application, the upgrade can also include Allen-Bradley Kinetix® 6500 servo drives for coordinated drive control and Allen-Bradley PowerFlex® 525, 755 and 70 AC drives for variable speed control.

The Kinetix and PowerFlex drives include built-in safety functionality via the Safe Torque-off feature. Safe Torque-off capability removes rotational power from the motor without powering down the entire machine. As a result, equipment can be brought to a stop more safely – and restarted more quickly. The robust safety solution also incorporates POINT Guard I/O™ and other safety-rated components as required.

The control system is typically integrated on an EtherNet/IP™ network.

For an operator interface upgrade, PCMC applies Allen-Bradley PanelView™ Plus 6 graphic terminals for local monitoring – and an industrial computer running FactoryTalk® View human machine interface (HMI) software at the main console or in the control room.

Through partnership with Rockwell Automation, PCMC has gained control systems knowledge that complements their own product expertise – and a solution that supports an incremental approach to technology migration.

“For a particular customer, we might focus on the GuardLogix controller one year and the drives upgrade the next,” said Jason Stover, senior electrical project engineer, PCMC. “With Rockwell Automation solutions, our customers can migrate to new technology and make ongoing improvements in line with budget considerations.”

Whether it’s a complete upgrade or an incremental improvement, PCMC begins the process with an equipment audit to determine inefficiencies – and set a vision for the control system and equipment performance.

“Over the years, we have been able to utilize Rockwell Automation capabilities to achieve the performance requirements of very demanding and diverse converting operations,” said Thiede. “We know we can rely on their solutions and support as we continue to improve the performance of our equipment throughout its lifecycle.”

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