



MESsurable result

Integrated control system gave strong production increase.

ASM Foods develops and makes industrial chocolate for ice cream producers and bakeries. The company has a production capacity of around 15 000 tons annually and is the market leader in the Scandinavian bakery sector.

In the dairy sector, ASM has developed from a national to an international actor in a decade. In spite of constant improvements, the company's 1989-90 production unit in Mjölby had real capacity problems in the early 2000s.

The beginning of collaboration between the rapidly growing ASM company and Novotek started as early as 1989 while building the Mjölby factory. By doing planning and construction simultaneously time was saved and the object-oriented electrical and automation solutions

“Novotek’s Manufacturing Execution System gave a 20 - 30 % production increase.”

Anders Lindroth, produktionschef,
ASM Foods fabrik i Mjölby

provided a dynamic facility that could handle many production changes and increases over the years. What at that time was a modern system consisted of a PLC-control system Simatic S5 with operator panels and decentralised I/O connection points. This was supplemented with recipe storage and traceability in separate PC-computers. However, after a while the system could not keep pace with the increasing production. “Simply put, we couldn’t keep up with it. There was always panic,” ex-

plains Anders Lindroth at the ASM Foods Factory in Mjölby.

HOLISTIC VIEW PROVIDED MANY ADVANTAGES

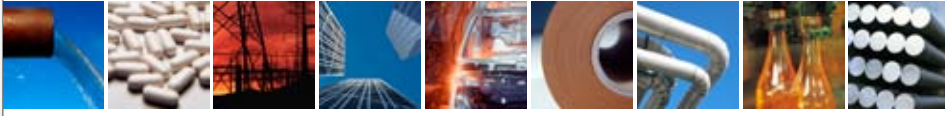
The MES or Manufacturing Execution System concept was not yet developed when ASM’s original production system was installed. Today’s systems provide completely different possibilities for production planning, batch handling and traceability.

“We gained a holistic view when we installed MES. It is a system that can handle all functions in an integrated manner,” says Christer Mars, Business Development Manager for Automation at Novotek.

Production planning, raw materials handling, batch handling, production statistics, traceability and reports are all integrated via a single operator interface. The operator sees no difference between his/her operating system and MES. Everything is presented in iFIX process pictures



The integrated system means a substantial rationalization which gives more time for planning.



on the operator's display. The production planner also works with the same graphical interface.

INTEGRATED SYSTEM RESULTED IN A PRODUCTION INCREASE

The integrated system offered a significant rationalisation. The working procedures are changed and the personnel have more time for planning and other activities. This has led to a 20 – 30 % production growth. Thus the investment in a new production system has resulted in a tangible profit for ASM.

100 PERCENT INVOLVEMENT FROM BOTH SIDES

“The installation was quick and rather painless. One of the changes was to replace our Siemens' communications interface with a standardised Profibus. This also provided us with a more open and future proof production facility,” continues Christer Mars.

“There was a one-week overrun on the planned three-week implementation, but that was quick enough,” explains Anders Lindroth. “After the installation, we had a learning period during the spring 2006. There were a number of recipes that couldn't be tested during the short installation

period. Smaller adjustments have also been done as we progressed. We had personnel who were 100 % involved in the project and could talk with and update the operators in a combined training and feed-back process. Novotek was also quick and effective.”

SERVICE AVAILABILITY WITHIN 24H

Speed and reliability is obviously vital. Previously all service meant trips and downtime. Today Novotek is directly linked to the ASM facility via a secure Internet link, enabling them to diagnose, correct problems and make adjustments on a 24-hour, 7-day a week schedule.

“Our turnover in chocolate alone is 200 million SEK, but we still cannot have all expertise in-house and therefore outsource automation. But this requires constant service preparedness and sufficient know-how at the supplier end. We have asked this of Novotek and we get it,” concludes Anders Lindroth.

“And they have even challenged several of our customers to set the same goal,” says Christer Mars. “We have understood the need and today offer 24-hour service to our customers.”

FACTS

COMPANY

ASM Foods production unit in Mjölby

SOLUTIONS

- Automation
- Production planning
- Production monitoring
- Production control

PRODUCTS

- Novotek MES
- Proficy iFIX
- Control system
- Service contract

BENEFITS

- Increased production
- Flexible solutions with expansion possibilities
- Integrated holistic solution
- Secure service and support on a 24-hour basis

For more information on our smart solutions, please visit our website www.novotek.se

NOVOTEK  Improving your performance