



Arla Foods improves quality using data from golden batches

Collecting data efficiently and thereby creating documentation is an important competitive factor for companies today. Customers insist on receiving documentation to confirm that they are buying a quality product and they make great demands on their suppliers for traceability and optimised control over production.

THE NEED FOR PROCESS CONTROL

Production at Arla Foods amba – Danmark Protein in Videbæk, Denmark has always been highly automated. With a large number of process lines and complex logistics, there was a great need for an efficient IT system to continually integrate process control, data collection, data registration and administrative systems. As the result of a

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René Nørgaard, Project leader,
Arla Foods amba, Denmark

thorough analysis, the choice fell to Proficy in the form of Proficy Plant Application, which is marketed by Novotek

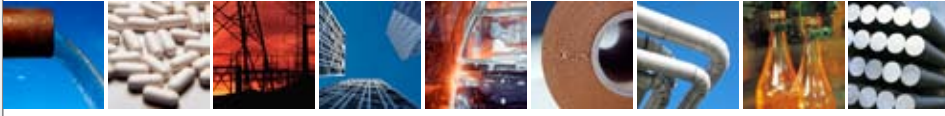
TRACEABILITY VERY IMPORTANT

Arla Foods amba – Danmark Protein processes whey, a by-product from making cheese at Danish and Swedish dairies. The whey is used to make protein and lactose powders, which are sold to the food industry and other divisions within Arla. The fac-

tory has a staff of 200 and produces around 42,000 tons of powder a year. “Efficiency, quality and traceability are very important factors for us,” says Arla Foods project leader René Nørgaard. “The aim is to optimise the control of key parameters, the utilisation of capacity and logistics within the factory at the same time as setting up an efficient system for collecting detailed data from every single batch we make.”

LESS PAPERWORK

“We began installing Proficy in 2002 and the system went online in the spring of 2003. One of the reasons for choosing Proficy was that it is an open system that can be directly integrated with our other systems.” The introduction of Proficy MES not only has an effect at the process line level, it also has an administrative and organisational impact on the factory’s management and the Group. It is too early to say if there have been any positive con-



crete effects on efficiency or quality following the implementation of the system but a timesaving in data collection can already be seen. “Paperwork in connection with the registration and interpretation of data took long time before we started using Proficy. One of the major advantages with Proficy that it takes care of much of the paperwork and thus saves an enormous number of manhours. At the same time data is more accessible and can quickly be used in various reports for documentation and optimisation. We can put the resources freed in this way to much better use.

DATA FROM GOLDEN BATCHES

“A specific aim with data collection is to define what we call golden batches, where production is optimal and the quality high. We want to use the parameters from specific

successful batches to optimise the process lines so that we are able to improve quality in ensuing batches,” says René Nørgaard.



SUMMARY

COMPANY

Arla foods Amba, Denmark

SOLUTIONS

Production management

- Efficiency
- Quality
- Traceability

PRODUCTS

- Proficy Plant Application

BENEFITS

- Batch data collection timesaving
- Product documentation
- Traceability
- Integrated process control
- Control of key parameters
- Better utilization of capacity and logistics

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