

SOLUTION OVERVIEW

Discrete

Ticking Time Bomb

Flexware Innovation had supported a large automotive parts distributor for several years when their outdated hardware went down causing a massive bottleneck, reducing facility efficiency by half.

The Challenge | Obsolete Software & Equipment

An automotive parts distributor's high-volume palletizing system was a ticking time bomb. The existing system was outdated and custom built, so replacement parts were hard to come by, often took weeks to source, and required costly on-site technical support from out-of-state. When one of the two outdated PC units went down, a massive bottleneck within picking, sorting, and feeding reduced the facility's efficiency by half.

The Solution | Allen-Bradley by Rockwell Automation



Flexware Innovation replaced the original system and software with a commercially available, off-the-shelf Rockwell Automation integrated control and information solution. On this project, Flexware's Automation Team was able to design a similar screen for operator confidence, providing instant ease of operation with their new system.

The Outcome | Complete Control

The automotive parts distributor was thrilled to gain complete control over their system, as well as, ease of upgrades/changes and considerably less downtime. Ease for operators is always a key area taken into consideration by Flexware when upgrading or re-controlling for a client. On the automotive parts project, the team was able to design a similar screen “look and feel” for operator comfort, providing ease of operation even though it was a newer system.

Project Outcomes

- complete system control
- standardized touch screen interfaces
- ease of use for everyone
- no waiting for updates/changes
- readily available replacement parts



“We always try to design the form and functionality of a machine to mimic the existing controls, unless requested by the customer to use newer graphic methods. Operator feedback is very important to us when engineering a solution and our projects often involve gathering that feedback and designing around their use.”

– Ryan Binkley, Automation Manager, Flexware Innovation