

CASE STUDY

FACILITY UPGRADE OUTSOURCED TO GTH



BACKGROUND

The client is a rapidly expanding manufacturer and producer of materials used in the aerospace industry. They approached GTH in the hopes of getting support with a facility upgrade. Their plant has a wide range of instrumentation and software technology from various manufacturers including PLC's and HMI's.

CHALLENGE

Several large new contracts for the company justified the decision to expand their heat treatment line to keep up with product demand. Given their size and manufacturing requirements to date, they did not have a dedicated engineering and maintenance staff capable of large system upgrades. As their needs to increase production became urgent, they reached out to their local GTH office. The GTH Control Engineers were familiar with the PLC being utilized so the client made the decision to outsource the system design and programming.

SOLUTION

GTH worked with the client to identify the minor changes and additional functionality they wanted to see in the new program. To save development time and programming costs, the GTH team extracted the existing program from existing PLCs and made the modifications. There were also improvements made to the HMI interface. The nuisance screens were removed and additional functionality was added. Additionally, a large, sixteen operator control station was eliminated with the addition of a new HMI screen. This cut down on the project costs and also streamlined their overall operation.

BENEFITS

The addition of a second line allowed them to double their current production output. This additional production capacity has allowed them take on more business and larger contracts from a greater number of customers. By outsourcing the system upgrade, they were able to keep their personnel focused on core activities. They also saw a number of other advantages including:

- Faster turnaround
- Skilled expertise
- Flexible staffing



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