Placoplatre optimizes its production with intelligent video.

Thanks to Axis network video, Placoplatre can instantly detect incidents on its production line.

Organization:
Placoplatre

Location:
Chambéry, France

Industry segment:
Industrial

Application:
Production line surveillance

Axis partner:
France Télécom

Mission

Placoplatre is the leading French company in plaster-based products and is part of the Saint Gobain group. This plaster and PSE insulation specialist (plaster, insulation, floor tiles) currently has 20 production sites in France. After upgrading its production line at the Chambéry plant, Placoplatre set out to optimize the production line's video surveillance system, in particular by improving the detection of production incidents.

Solution

France Télécom was consulted on this project and recommended upgrading the analog camera system to a system with 21 additional cameras and automatic production incident detection.

Result

In addition to improving the image quality and ease of use of the new system, Placoplatre has been able to significantly reduce intervention time when production incidents occur.

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COMMUNICATIONS

"Choosing an IP system meant looking at the requirements and quality we wanted to achieve with our process automation and with our production line upgrade at the site."

M. Cordoba, Project Head at Placoplatre.

Context and problem

Since 1992, the Chambéry site has been equipped with an analog system that includes eight cameras, two control screens and one video recorder. In optimizing the production line, two major video surveillance problems appeared:

> When the alarm signalled a problem with the production line, the operator had to move to the surveillance area which was 300 meters away from the line to be able to view the entire line to identify the problem.

> Data was archived for only three days and only four cameras out of the eight were recording.

The choice of a network video system

France Télécom offered to upgrade its client's existing system and enhance it with a network video system consisting of a solution based on Axis network cameras.

The complete video surveillance system includes:

> Six screens with four AXIS 292 Video Decoders (used to monitor network video streams on existing analog equipment)

> 21 Axis network cameras: one AXIS 213 PTZ and 20 AXIS 211 Network Cameras

> Four video encoders/servers, two of which are AXIS 214Q Video Servers to convert the existing analog camera stream.

Using PoE technology (Power over Ethernet) for the Axis camera network has reduced costs and produced more efficient network cable sharing, making the existing architecture more valuable.

Operational since July 2006, it took four months to install and is orchestrated around the surveillance of three strategic zones in the production line:

> The GYPSE store: Contains the raw material to make the plaster

> The TTH (humid transfer): The plaster is left to stand before entering the oven

> The TTS (the oven exit): This is the end of the production line, the product is conditioned.

An system fully part of the Placoplatre process

Since its installation, Placoplatre is satisfied with the network video system. Fully integrated, it is ideal for:

> Operational simplicity: Placoplatre wants the system to be easy to use for its operators. So if a problem appears in one of the three monitored zones, the camera image is automatically displayed by AXIS 292 on the relevant screen for the zone, which lets the operator determine whether the alarm is real or not.

> Real-time image and transmission quality: In contrast to the old system, the images are now in color. Another significant advantage that conforms to what Placoplatre is looking for is that image latency is only one second and does not affect image quality at all.

For Mr. Cordoba, Project Head at Placoplatre, the video system they deployed is a real tool of confidence on which the teams can rely. It allows them to remotely monitor, in real time, sensitive zones not near the workstations 24 hours a day. It also helps technical teams and management resolve problems when they occur on the production line as well as identify causes by analyzing the recorded sequences. The system provides better display and also allows remote testing when a production process is changed.

The Chambéry plant, a "World Class Manufacturing" site

Since 2002, Chambéry has been applying a WCM method whose philosophy is the reduction of wastage. "Implementing an IP-Surveillance system is a very good example as, concretely, it's a real tool we use daily to improve our profitability," says Mr. Cordoba.

The success of this project is important for the Chambéry site. If all goes well, this project will be able to be classified as "Best Practice" and serve as a reference for production sites looking to equip themselves with an IP-Surveillance system.