



Implementing a Press Control Technology Upgrade

Challenge

A tier-one Canadian manufacturer for the automotive industry had challenges with their mechanical presses and controls that were out of date and facing obsolescence. They wanted to control their own equipment and did not want to go through a full third-party integration. The customer looked to Wesco to update their platform using Wesco preferred supplier's products. The goal was to be self-sufficient and have a custom solution that could predict and prevent system failures before they happened. Being a just-in-time (JIT) supplier to the automotive industry, they could not afford downtime.

Solution

Wesco's automation team in Canada developed a solution that controlled the entire process and, in addition, provided more data to the operators and maintenance teams to allow for predictive maintenance to reduce downtime. This new system included using best-in-class solutions from all manufacturers and developing an open protocol where they would work together.

The result focused on the new Rexroth ctrlX automation and motion control platforms for both the hardware and software. It also incorporated a Pilz PSS4000 Safety PLC and safety sensors. The overall solution was a fully operational system handling every aspect of the press operation from the initial roll-feed through the straightener.

Results

This solution allowed the customer to improve quality, performance and reduce downtime by 30%. The Wesco technical application team worked with the customer's plant manager, engineering and maintenance teams to create a solution that maximized production while minimizing operating expenses. The new system will serve as a best-in-class solution to be implemented across their facilities.

Summary

- Added predictive maintenance to the customer's press control technology
- Improved overall production quality and Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE)
- Reduced downtime by 30%, lowering overall operational costs

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