

Application Brief: Schipper Eggs



The Challenge

In raising and caring for the hens that deliver the goods, commercial egg producers like Holland, Michigan-based Schipper Eggs must store, mix, and move tons of grain—the nutritionally balanced poultry feed the hens need. Schipper Eggs’ automated feed mill is typical: raw grain, usually corn, is mixed with soybean meal, vitamins, and minerals, and then transported to the buildings that house the egg-laying hens. Automated feeders deliver the feed to the hens.

At a large egg producer like Schipper Eggs, the feed mill operates 14-16 hours a day. The automated mill runs reliably, but during operation it used to be mostly unsupervised. Facilities Manager Dan Berghorst knew additional oversight was needed.

“We needed a way for the operators to have instant remote access,” he explains, “including being able to monitor the mill’s operational status and also start, stop, or modify how the feed was being mixed.”

Berghorst was asked to implement a remote monitoring system.

The Solution

Berghorst had switched the mill to an Opto 22 SNAP PAC control system shortly before *groov* became available. When local Opto 22 distributor OptoSolutions told him about *groov*, Berghorst got one. Setting up the *groov* Box and preparing screens for an operator interface took little time. “Building screens was quick,” he says, “and it didn’t take long to get up and running.”

Berghorst set up accounts for secure operation, and feed mill operators now monitor and control the mill from smartphones. The remote access also lets him monitor and troubleshoot the mill’s control system.

Berghorst has used other mobile SCADA products, and he appreciates the ease of updating the operator



A web browser includes live video in an overview of machinery status.

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interface on many different devices in the field at the same time. "I love the way that I can change screens and it gets pushed to all the devices as soon as they refresh," he says. Happy operators, happy hens, better eggs.

The Customer

Schipper Eggs LLC
Holland, MI

About Opto 22

Opto 22 develops and manufactures hardware and software for applications involving industrial automation and control, energy management, remote monitoring, and data acquisition. Designed and made in the U.S.A., Opto 22 products have an established reputation worldwide for ease of use, innovation, quality, and reliability. Opto 22 products, which use standard, commercially available networking and computer technologies, are used by automation end-users, OEMs, and information technology and operations personnel in over 10,000 installations worldwide. The company was founded in 1974 and is privately held in Temecula, California, U.S.A. Opto 22 products are available through a global network of distributors and system integrators. For more information, contact Opto 22 headquarters at +1-951-695-3000 or visit www.opto22.com.