



Improved Efficiency, Real-time Data, Clear Accountability, Reduced Manufacturing Cycles...

The benefits of embracing MES are clear

With the global desire to improve product traceability, increase operator efficiency, reduce costly plant downtime and minimise product wastage now widespread across manufacturing industries of all kinds, increasing numbers of organisations are keen to establish and monitor vital Key Performance Indicators that can help maximise the return on investment from both plant automation and process control systems.



From their offices in Lichfield, FMA have become industry experts in the provision of real time data collection for the UK and overseas brewery, soft drinks, dairy and food production industries. This has been achieved via the delivery of control system packages geared to providing vital process data at shop floor level, right through to vertically structured systems encompassing SCADA,

Management Execution Systems (MES) and interfacing with complex Enterprise Resource Planning systems (ERP) across multiple production sites

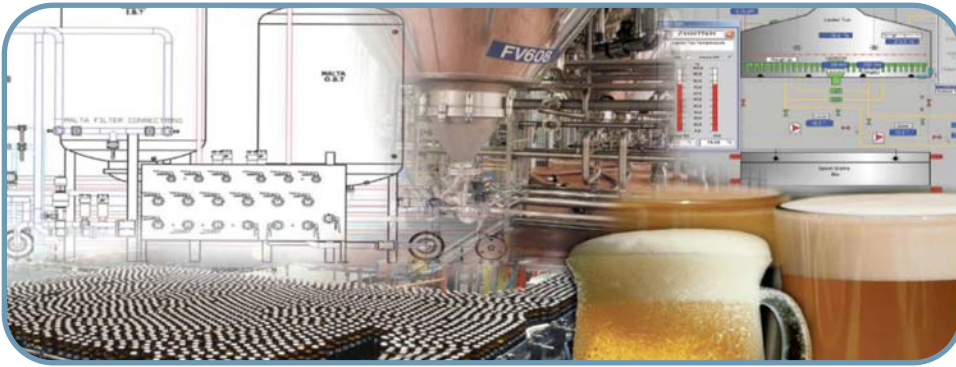
Making the right decisions

Not surprisingly, the most important aspect prior to employing MES is to decide on the degree of information you wish the system to deliver. It

is important to think about your processes and the raw data you require. Consider when best to collect it and what conclusions you wish to achieve. Decide at what level you will collect the data – at operator (PLC) or SCADA, and plan for any minor works to the production line during the installation, testing and simulation phases before you “go live”.



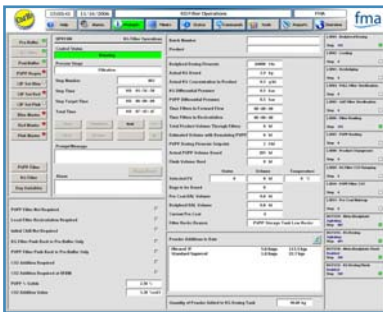
Engineering Solutions - Delivering Efficiencies



Management empowerment

Senior managers are empowered with a whole range of plant-wide Key Performance Indicators at their disposal

With the ability to acquire then act upon accurate and timely process data being increasingly seen as a key requirement in virtually any production environment, the deployment of MES technology can certainly reap dividends. Manufacturers can capture vital plant information by both time and manufacturing occurrences in order to analyse precisely a chain of events that led to a particular process, operation or production failure. Process operators and shop floor managers gain the ability to review in real time the actual status of any particular stage of a process, while senior managers are empowered with a whole range of plant-wide Key Performance Indicators at their disposal.



Detailed and immediate analysis

By analysing a whole range of relevant, ongoing plant data, such as energy consumption, volumes of process steam or water consumed, process line status, along with production line and laboratory information, overall plant efficiency can be reviewed, reliance on paper-based records becomes a thing of the past and decisions that could increase productivity, reduce downtime, eliminate wastage and improve product quality can be made immediately

Monitoring production

With topical information constantly to hand, it becomes easier for managers to monitor production line status, drilling down where necessary for individual batch inventory details, downtime data, product wastage, product quality as well as the company's overall efficiency in meeting orders. At the same time, with data uploaded automatically to the management tiers, operators are freed-up to concentrate on the manufacture of quality products rather than becoming involved in time-consuming reporting activities.

By examining the attributes of a typical MES reporting function, it is possible to see how factory-wide quality enhancements as well as significant cost savings can be made.

Process volume monitoring & Genealogy

MES offers the ability to track and identify wastage across the entire production cycle, including discrepancies between supplier delivery notes and actual quantity of product received. Product tracking and complete genealogy can be achieved, with batches back-tracked through every stage of process, to establish exactly where a problem occurred as well as the relationship of all raw materials with the finished product.



For more information

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