

CASE STUDY: iTrax DataShare

Expanding the iTrax® System for Greater Capabilities

The iTrax® Spray Monitor (SM) System monitors the performance of each spray gun on a container manufacturing line. When it detects a spray gun that is applying too much or too little coating, it activates an alarm, alerting the operator of the problem and identifying the specific spray gun. This enables fast response and corrective action to the problem, resulting in fewer rejects and reduced downtime for greater productivity and savings.

But what happens if the iTrax alarms are turned off or if the alarm configurations are incorrectly changed? Although the system will still detect equipment problems, it will not be able to properly alert the operator or plant personnel about the issues that need to be addressed. The iTrax DataShare can help.

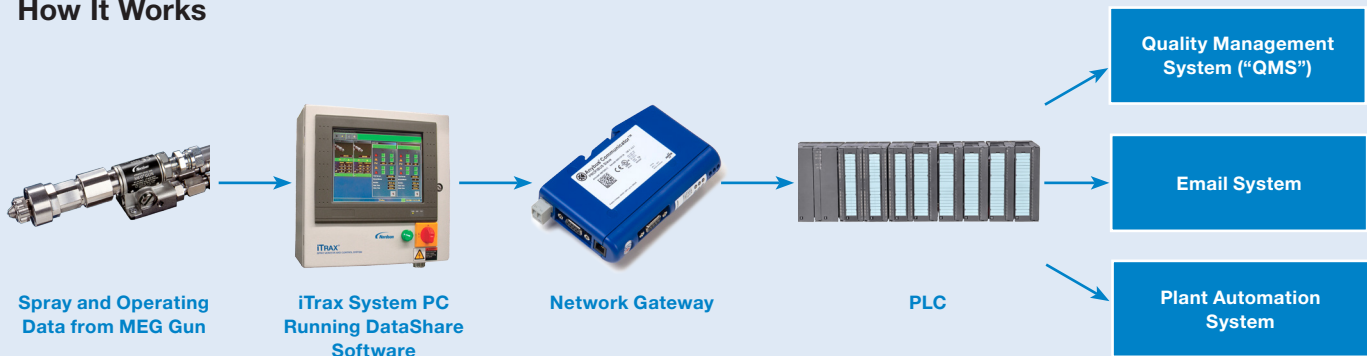
A can manufacturing plant using the iTrax SM experienced recurring issues when the iTrax alarm configurations were changed by plant personnel. The alarms were turned off when changing labels or making adjustments ... or on purpose to keep the line running without monitoring and addressing potential quality issues. With no active alarms on the iTrax system, the plant experienced significant issues, primarily from poor production quality and increased scrap. This resulted in higher costs that could have been controlled if iTrax was fully functioning.

To eliminate any missed alarms, the plant installed the iTrax DataShare Module to enable sharing of iTrax data, including



alarm configurations with the plant's PLC. Then they programmed their PLC to do two things with the iTrax information provided by DataShare. When iTrax alarm configurations were changed from the intended settings, the PLC first generated a warning light at the PLC enclosure and second, sent an email to the plant's quality control (QC) manager. This allowed local plant personnel and the QC manager to take action to ensure the alarms were reactivated. In doing so, they used the iTrax SM system to its full capability and reaped the benefits. The plant improved their production quality and saved money by reducing scrap.

How It Works



More specifically, the plant experienced:

- Increased control of the inside spray process by utilizing data in sync with other equipment and operations in the overall manufacturing process
- Reduced scrap and less waste
- Better utilization of the iTrax system as a tool in controlling the inside spray process and producing consistent product quality

For more information on this application, contact Nordson at **800.433.9319**, or nordson.com/container.

For more information, speak with your Nordson representative or contact your Nordson regional office.

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