Dotting the i’s on innovation

The new innovation center at O-I in Ohio is on the right lines with end-to-end automation and drive solutions.

Those who are familiar with Owens-Illinois, Inc. (O-I) will know just how much the global market leader invests in research and development for its glass container production. But if anyone needed convincing, the new innovation center at its global headquarters in Perrysburg, Ohio, is a testament to this dedication. The center houses two new lines: one to produce innovative samples for customers, and one for O-I scientists to optimize production processes and test potential breakthroughs under real operating conditions. This research then feeds into the expertise of O-I’s 77 plants across the globe.

Thanks to a long history of working together with Siemens on automation and drive solutions and power distribution products, managers at O-I did not have to think twice when opting for plant-wide automation in the new innovation center. This highly effective concept covered all internal plant sections, as well as those from external suppliers.

Satisfaction – all along the line

“Siemens has the global footprint and automation products to match our needs – all along the line. The company not only has a complete line of high-caliber, reliable products, but also protects our intellectual property, can provide application knowledge, is able to give long-term support, and even offers value for money,” summarizes Dale Gaerke, Director R&D Controls & Electrical Engineering at O-I.

“With Simatic Process Historian, we have a powerful long-term archiving tool that is perfectly compatible with the WinCC Scada System. Process data and reports can be archived centrally, and in real time – with no extra engineering required. That is a great help for our researchers in analyzing what factors influence our processes.”

O-I uses a variety of Siemens solutions, including: the Scada software Simatic WinCC as an innovative, scalable process visualization system with powerful functions for monitoring automated processes, Simatic S7 modular controllers, Simatic ET200 as a decentralized peripheral system, Profinet, the Sinamics G120 modular drive inverter, the Sinamics S120 modular servo drive, Siemens industrial PCs, and Simatic HMI panels. What’s more, O-I is now also equipped to accelerate its entire process from product design to delivery, thanks to Siemens’ integrated portfolio – giving it a decisive competitive edge.

Sustainability up close

O-I set itself the targets of reducing energy consumption by 50 percent, increasing the proportion of recycled glass in its glass containers to an average of 60 percent, and lowering emissions by 65 percent, all while improving safety in the workplace. A number of initiatives to achieve these goals are already in the offing.