



PROCESS INSTRUMENTATION

**Food processing manufacturer
saves time and money with
Siemens radar level transmitters**

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A large, multinational food processor in Charlotte, North Carolina reached out to instrumentation supplier FLW Southeast for help updating their level monitoring capabilities in flour silos. The customer has been in this location for more than 100 years and much of their instrumentation is becoming outdated – specifically in their storage silos. At the food processor's site, various types of finished flour are ground from wheat and end up in one of the 20 silos built into the main building and accessed from the fifth floor. The bins are made of concrete, with 6-foot metal cones at the bottom. The bins/silos are funnel flow and product is discharged into a screw conveyor or airlock valve.

Historically, the level in the silos was measured by a competitor's legacy mechanical level sensors. However, many of the sensors had failed over the course of several years and no factory support existed. In these cases, plant technicians were forced to climb up to the fifth floor and open the access hatches to perform a tape measurement multiple times each day – not an ideal situation for sure!

FLW Southeast's local sales engineer had assisted this plant many times with various flow and level measurement applications. After doing a site walkthrough and consulting with applications engineers, FLW Southeast determined that the Siemens SITRANS LR560 radar level transmitter would be an ideal instrument for this application due to its higher signal frequency, advanced signal processing and built-in sensor air purge. FLW Southeast provided an evaluation unit for testing and the local sales engineer assisted with installation and setup. Immediately after completion of the setup wizard, the evaluation unit was making accurate measurements.

After two straight weeks of continuous performance, the customer deemed the trial a success and is moving forward with purchasing Siemens SITRANS LR560 units for each tank. Additionally, FLW Southeast is working with the customer on implementing a web-based monitoring system for their silos, utilizing the SITRANS store IQ Smart Monitoring App and Siemens IOT hardware. With SITRANS store IQ, plant operators can monitor the activity and health of process equipment remotely and in real time, regardless of location. All data and alarms can be sent directly to any PC, tablet or smartphone.

Siemens Industry, Inc.
Process Industries and Drives
100 Technology Drive
Alpharetta, GA 30005
1-800-365-8766

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