



PROCESS INSTRUMENTATION

At Lano Carpets, the inline mixer can handle any color **with the help of the SITRANS FC440 mass flow meter**

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ALano Carpets in Belgium produces 23,920 sq. yds of tufted carpet every day. To increase the flexibility of its machines and reduce costs, the company decided to stop manufacturing its dyes in batches and switch to a continuous process using an inline mixer that produces the right color on an as needed basis.

This innovative system, designed and created in conjunction with Solution Partner ProcAT, requires highly accurate process management to continuously produce a precise color shade every time. Using Siemens Coriolis flow meters, the coloring agents required to manufacture a specific color shade are injected into the inline mixer in proportions that stringently adhere to the settings. However, when the machine changes from one product to the next that is when the new concept shows just how effective it is: switching to a new color is virtually automatic and involves minimal waste.

Business Challenge

- To avoid time loss and product waste associated with traditional batch manufacturing, Lano Carpets decided to switch to a continuous process based on an inline mixer that injects coloring agents into a collector containing a premix.

Technical Challenge

- Obtaining precise color shades and avoiding discrepancies requires a highly stable process and accurate dosage of the coloring agents, in the right proportions, taking account of the premix flow rate.

- This control requires precision flow-rate measurement, both for the premix and for the coloring agents, as well as constant pressure inside the collector.

- The precise mix is managed by a SCADA system that regulates the dosage of the coloring agents according to the desired color shade.

Conceptual Solution

A large quantity of premix is prepared with all the ingredients of the dye apart from the coloring agents, which are processed in separate batches of three colors: yellow, red and blue. Two different concentrations are created to obtain a wider range of colors in the dosage process.

These coloring agents circulate continuously around the machine and are injected into the collector through a valve. Frequency-controlled pumps ensure the correct proportions are used, while the Coriolis flow meters transmit the required feedback to the pump control system. Turbulence inside the collector ensures good mixing so the dyeing of the carpet is homogeneous.

Product Range

- The volumes of coloring agents pumped into the machine are measured using SITRANS FC440 Coriolis flow meters.

- Control and supervision of the application is through a SIMATIC WinCC system, which translates the recipes sent by the ERP into precise dosages of coloring agents.



Technical Benefits for the User

- The Coriolis flow meters provide maximum precision for the pump control system, which plays a pivotal role in the mixing ratio. The flow meters measure the flow rate and density and convert them into a volumetric flow rate, i.e. the quantity that determines the mixing ratio.

- The SIMATIC WinCC display allows operators to supervise the process and ensure its stability, so that every color shade can be accurately reproduced and the risk of error eliminated.

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