

Portal to success

Hurst Boiler: TIA Portal Application Awards - 2012

Company Name: Hurst Boiler & Welding

Location: Coolidge, GA

Website: www.hurstboiler.com

Key Business Activity: Major supplier of gas, oil & wood fired boilers, along with boiler room peripherals.

Name of Application: Biomass Boiler System

Explanation of the application:

- The application is for a biomass and hybrid fuel-fired steam and hot water boiler, from 6 to 2,500 bhp and pressures to 450 psi. The control system is heating, monitoring and analyzing the water. It generates alarms, charts performance and offers remote diagnostics to monitor the boiler's efficiency.

What challenges led you to look at a new solution?

- We needed a vendor with a global presence and we felt Siemens Industry offerings would be an asset to our boiler manufacturer's growing international market.



- We were no longer getting the results we needed as an OEM from the system we had been using. In going with Siemens we hoped to be more efficient and do more with less.

What Siemens automation products were chosen for this project and why?

- We used Siemens S7-1200 PLC, Comfort Panel HMI, Industrial Microbox PC, and G120 Drives over Profinet. For the configuration and programming of these devices we used the TIA Portal.
- We felt the S7-1200 PLC and Comfort Panel HMIs offered a lot of functionality for the price. In addition the TIA Portal allowed us to configure and program these devices in one environment.

What features in the TIA Portal addressed your project challenges?

- **Integration:** An integrated engineering framework allows for the networking and configuration of PLC and HMI components in one environment. Easy navigation and drag and drop between the programs have saved us significant development time.
- **Reusability:** The Libraries feature in the software lets us build parts of the program (Devices, blocks, HMI screens, tags, etc.) and then share them with other applications by simply dropping them in. We are an OEM, but much of what we build is custom, so those libraries and the ability to reuse them are very helpful.
- **Scalability:** The scalable solution allows us to upgrade to the next product level without having to reengineer the program. We are looking for a more diverse product line, and Siemens offers us a multitude of solutions and the scalability we need.

How has your business improved?

- In the past it was not unheard of for us to spend two or three days on a project. With the TIA Portal, we can do it in four or five hours. We can do so much more with our existing staff, and in terms of engineering time we're saving 30% to 40%.