

# Enhancing performance of automated materials handling system

Looking to increase productivity through improved materials handling system



Improved materials handling system

## Background

A major, multi-national food manufacturing company were keen to increase the productivity of a key UK operation by improving the performance of their automated materials handling system. Any failure of the system (which transported several million packets of snacks per day) was extremely costly and the existing monitoring and control system was particularly complex with poor fault finding capabilities.

## Development

Working in conjunction with a partner organisation we developed and implemented a sophisticated data, alarm, visualisation and reporting application which interfaced to the client's ERP system. The system utilises industry standard interfaces and protocols to enable communication between programmable logic controllers and human machine interfaces.

## Benefits

Utilising the new system, downtime has been minimised as faults are easier to locate and diagnose. Enhanced analysis and reporting capabilities, provided by the new system have enabled further opportunities to improve productivity to be identified.