



ENHANCING PLANT EFFICIENCY

OUR CUSTOMER

A leading manufacturer of industrial plants for the food and beverage industry

- Manufacturing sites and sales units worldwide
- Focus on efficient and environmentally friendly use of materials

THE CHALLENGE

Quality is the top priority in the food industry. In addition, the ever-growing relevance of sustainability increases the pressure on businesses to optimise their plants. Our customer's goal was to optimise their plant structure to reduce the number of components and save energy at the same time. Particular focus was placed on the field modules which had to be protected by special junction boxes due to their often low IP ratings, thus placing tight constraints on plant design. Particularly critical are the areas in which the system has to be cleaned by high-pressure cleaners.

THE SOLUTION – Why ifm?

A new construction project was the perfect start for the IO-Link masters developed especially for the food industry. Thanks to protection class IP69K, these can be used in the field without hesitation. In combination with ifm's equally resistant ecolink connection technology, the wiring of sensors and actuators becomes more easily, quickly and flexibly.

Within the scope of support in system planning and our on-site service, the customer was able to convince himself of the manufacturer-independent functionality and simple handling by means of a hardware setup consisting of IO-Link master, connection technology, valve terminals and a PLC, and thus gain confidence in the desired solution. Especially the aspect that IO-Link is not a closed system from ifm, but is used by many manufacturers, was received very positively. Also the additional functions and diagnostic options via IO-Link, such as the switching cycle counting for valve terminals, finally led to a decision in favour of the solution offered by ifm.

MEASURABLE RESULTS

By using IO-Link, the customer can make the system structure much more efficient and achieve high savings.

- Installation time reduced by 30% thanks to the IO-Link optimised plant structure
- Reduction of wiring errors
- Considerable cost savings on pneumatic tubes, connection technology and junction boxes thanks to the use of IO-Link-masters in combination with valve terminals
- Savings in the cost of junction boxes in the amount of 13,000 € thanks to the use of IO-Link-masters