



## CASE STUDY

# ANCOR LABELING

Increasing production on a label packaging operation.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Back in 2005, Ancor teamed up with Patti Engineering to create a label packaging line and the line has been running ever since. Over the years, Patti Engineering has completed minor upgrades on the line, but the majority of the original hardware and software was still being used 15 years later.

Ancor wanted to increase production, but was finding that the aging line was running over 30% slower than it has in the past. This led to an investigation by the Patti Engineering team to find the route of the problem, and ultimately get the line back running at the necessary rate.



## CHALLENGE

Recently, Ancor began running their label packaging line at full capacity but found that the system was no longer producing at the same rate. With production deadlines, Ancor reached out to Patti Engineering to assist with diagnosing the cause of the low throughput.

After conducting an in-depth production analysis, Patti Engineering attributed the slow production rates to the out-of-date hardware and software. The system was still running with the original hardware, and overtime old hardware can become inefficient and start causing delays in production throughput. Patti Engineering and Ancor then devised a plan to replace the outdated equipment and update the software to streamline the process.

## SOLUTION & BENEFITS

Patti Engineering started with replacing the old hardware with a new control panel. The Allen Bradley SLC 5 PLC was replaced with a Siemens PLC and the LPAS HMI was replaced with a Siemens Comfort Panel.

The communication for the label packaging line was overly complicated for today's standards. The system was using both VB6 and VB.NET to setup communication from the PLC to the network database. Patti Engineering simplified the communication structure by installing the Ignition SQL Bridge software to handle all handshaking between the PLC and the network. This has helped to consolidate the program into one software which speeds up debugging time and improves maintenance.

"Patti Engineering has always made me feel that they take a personal interest in my success. They're so well versed with the PLCs, vision technology, and industrial controls that integrating with our expertise in the IT arena and our staff- that's a big, huge benefit. It's exactly what we need."

DAVE BARTKOWIAK, ANCOR INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

## RESULTS

With the updated technology, Ancor saw a production increase from 1500 back over 2100 packages an hour. The increase in production rate allowed Ancor to meet their production deadlines. The updated technology has made the system more reliable and a lot easier to maintain.

The upgrades completed in this project also helped to better utilize previous upgrades completed by Patti Engineering. A few years ago, Patti Engineering completed an upgrade for the vision system. Now, the vision system is able to format the data from the barcode as well as specify the barcode type that is being scanned. This has allowed the system to make better decisions based on the data read in.



- Production increase from 1500 back over 2100 packages an hour
- Increase in production rate allowed Ancor to meet their production deadlines
- Updated tech has made the system more reliable and a lot easier to maintain
- Updates to the vision system allows it to specify the barcode type and format data
- Updates allow system to make better decisions based on the data read in

Founded in 1991, Patti Engineering, Inc. is a CSIA Certified Integrator offering high-caliber engineering and software development services. Patti Engineering is an expert in our partners' technologies. Our partners include:

**SIEMENS FANUC**

