



Application Brief: Schipper Eggs

Remote feed mill control means happier operators, happier hens, and better eggs

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APPLICATION BRIEF: SCHIPPER EGGS

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THE CHALLENGE

In raising and caring for the hens that deliver the goods, commercial egg producers like Holland, Michigan-based Schipper Eggs must store, mix, and move tons of grain—the nutritionally balanced poultry feed the hens need.

Schipper Eggs' automated feed mill is typical: raw grain, usually corn, is mixed with soybean meal, vitamins, and minerals, and then transported to the buildings that house the egg-laying hens. Automated feeders deliver the feed to the hens.

At a large egg producer like Schipper Eggs, the feed mill operates 14-16 hours a day. The automated mill runs reliably, but during operation it used to be mostly

unsupervised. Facilities Manager Dan Berghorst knew additional oversight was needed.

"We needed a way for the operators to have instant remote access," he explains, "including being able to monitor the mill's operational status and also start, stop, or modify how the feed was being mixed." Berghorst was asked to implement a remote monitoring system.

THE SOLUTION

Berghorst had switched the mill to an Opto 22 SNAP PAC control system shortly before *groov*View became available. When local Opto 22 distributor OptoSolutions told him about the *groov*View HMI, Berghorst got a *groov* Box.



A web-browser-based display includes live video in an overview of machinery status.

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“Building screens was quick, and it didn’t take long to get up and running.”

- Dan Berghorst, Facilities Manager, Schipper Eggs

Setting up the *groov* Box and preparing screens for an operator interface took little time. “Building screens was quick,” he says, “and it didn’t take long to get up and running.”

Berghorst set up accounts for secure operation, and feed mill operators now monitor and control the mill from smartphones. The remote access also lets him monitor and troubleshoot the mill’s control system.

Berghorst has used other mobile SCADA products, and he appreciates the ease of updating the operator interface on many different devices in the field at the same time. “I love the way that I can change screens and it gets pushed to all the devices as soon as they refresh,” he says.

Happy operators, happy hens, better eggs.

ABOUT OPTO 22

Opto 22 was started in 1974 by a co-inventor of the solid-state relay (SSR), who discovered a way to make SSRs more reliable.

Opto 22 has consistently built products on open standards rather than on proprietary technologies. The company developed the red-white-yellow-black color-coding system for input/output (I/O) modules and the open Optomux® protocol, and pioneered Ethernet-based I/O.



SCHIPPER EGGS

In early 2013 Opto 22 introduced *groov* View, an easy-to-use IoT tool for developing and viewing mobile operator interfaces—mobile apps to securely monitor and control virtually any automation system or equipment.

Famous worldwide for its reliable industrial I/O, the company in 2018 introduced *groov* EPIC® (edge programmable industrial controller). EPIC has an open-source Linux® OS and provides connectivity to PLCs, software, and online services, plus data handling and visualization, in addition to real-time control.

All Opto 22 products are manufactured and supported in the U.S.A. Most solid-state SSRs and I/O modules are guaranteed for life.



The company is especially trusted for its continuing policy of providing free product support, free training, and free pre-sales engineering assistance.

For more information, visit opto22.com or contact **Opto 22 Pre-Sales Engineering:**

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