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LOCATIONS

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1.800.288.6628

North & South Dakota
1.800.288.6628

Iowa & Nebraska
1.800.288.6628

Milwaukee WI
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Madison WI
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Fox River Valley WI
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Oldsmar FL
1.800.288.6628

Elgin IL
1.877.942.7227

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IN MOTION

BRAAS COMPANY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the May 2008 edition of "In Motion" newsletter. **NEW!** Now you can reach Braas Company much easier by dialing 1.800.AUTOMATE. We installed a new phone system so no more having to remember how to reach us. If you would like us to showcase a specific product in future newsletters, please send your e-mail request to info@braasco.com, we'd like to hear from you!



ICONICS SOFTWARE INTEGRATION SUCCESS STORY!

Industry: Water and Wastewater

Scenario: This company provides a continuing and comprehensive effort to assure the proper collection and treatment of current and future wastewater flows and loads in an environmentally sound and cost effective manner that protects human health and the environment. This is their success story....

ICONICS Software Deployed: Installing the ICONICS GENESIS32™ OPC web-enabled HMI/SCADA suite and its WebHMI™ Web-based real-time automation component, as well as the BridgeWorX™ (real-time data bridging), ReportWorX™ (enterprise reporting/charting/analysis) and PortalWorX™ (real-time collaboration and visualization dashboards) components of ICONICS' BizViz™ manufacturing intelligence/business visualization suite.

Project Summary: ICONICS solutions were recommended through clients system integrator Olsson Associates. Having installed the GENESIS32 server and multiple browser stations at each plant, joined together on the entire fiber optic network. Each plant is an activated sludge wastewater facility. The client's SCADA system controls all manual and automatic aspects of each process including raw water pumping, flow dispersal through different treatment trains, flow control to aeration basins and plant overflow bypass. The system also controls aeration basin dissolved oxygen monitoring, mixed liquor suspended solids monitoring, return activated sludge flow set points/rates and effluent flow disinfection/totalization. The system also controls solid waste removal from the treatment facility.

Although browsers access the local server, the client's application was configured so that in the event of one server failure, the other plant could provide basic graphics, alarming and trending for the other facility. WebHMI allows their administrative staff to access graphics, alarming and trending from desktops from the network. Trending via WebHMI has been especially useful to operations and maintenance managers. ICONICS BridgeWorX is used to log process information to a SQL server database on a separate server for reporting. ReportWorX is used to create, print, and email daily process and equipment runtime reports to key personnel.

Benefits of the System: The new system provides monitoring and control of numerous pumps, valves, gates, wetwell levels, and solid waste removal in a secure manner. The system also allows managers to monitor any functions that the operators monitor. The client was impressed by the ease and flexibility of ICONICS software's configuration, as well as with the open connectivity and open standards concepts of OPC technology.

Contact Todd Berner at 515.249.2534 to find out how software systems such as ICONICS can improve your facility today! Also, visit us on the web at www.braasco.com/iet.html to find out more about products and support.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Braas Company has the following positions open:

Minnesota:

Accounting Assistant

Iowa/Nebraska:

Application Engineer

Illinois:

Outside Sales Rep - Pneumatic

Braas Company is employee owned and offers a competitive salary/benefits package. If you are interested, please send letter, resume and salary requirements to:

Braas Company
Janis Negratti-Samuel
7970 Wallace Road

Eden Prairie Minnesota 55344
Fax: 952.975.6317

E-mail: Employment@braasco.com

For job descriptions, visit our website www.braasco.com/employment.html



OMRON'S SMARTSLICE

The most intelligent and easy-to-use remote I/O system currently available!

Omron's SmartSlice I/O modules offer unparalleled configuration, fast installation, quick troubleshooting and maintenance, and reduced downtime. Some of the key features and benefits are:

Reliable three piece construction

Interlocking bus blocks are the heart of the system. The electronics module and removable terminal block plug into the back plane. This allows you to hot swap the electronics during maintenance while keeping field wiring and adjacent terminal blocks functioning.

- ⊕ Replace electronic modules while the bus structure and field wiring stay intact. During hot swapping, all other I/O units continue to operate.
- ⊕ Detach I/O terminals for pre-wiring, maintenance or testing.

Fast back-up and restore

All I/O unit data can be backed up in the bus interface unit with a flip of a switch. Recovery is even simpler; after hot swapping a unit, all settings are automatically loaded.

Easy to set-up and maintain

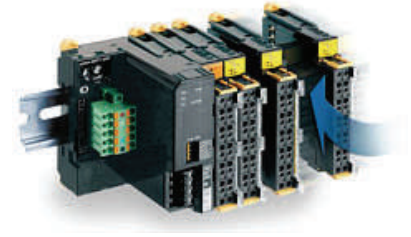
When used with Omron DeviceNet Master Units, no configuration is required at all. Simply set a bus address and connect.

Maintenance data logging minimizes downtime

All SmartSlice I/O units autonomously collect and store the information that helps you plan machine maintenance.

Early warning system helps prevent breakdowns

Monitor supply voltage, maintenance intervals, and maximum allowed delay between two I/O signals to track machine performance and identify possible problems.



PARKER - ACR EPL MOTION CONTROLLERS

Ethernet Powerlink MotionBus System

Fast, Efficient, Connected

The ACR EPL family is Parker's premier stand alone motion controller family, capable of controlling up to 16 axes of motion. Connectivity and communication features give the ACR EPL flexibility for use in a wide variety of machine architectures. The ACR EPL excels as a stand alone machine and motion controller, interfacing with a PC or working alongside a PLC. A powerful DSP makes the ACR EPL an outstanding multitasking servo controller. The ACR EPL includes easy-to-use project-development tools that enable fast, efficient application creation and maintenance. The ACR EPL is the solution for standalone applications requiring industry-leading performance in an affordable and easy-to-use package.

- ✗ Control of 16 Ethernet Powerlink drives
- ✗ 10/100 Base-T Ethernet
- ✗ USB 2.0
- ✗ Ethernet/IP compatibility
- ✗ CANopen expansion I/O
- ✗ CE [EMC & LVD], UL and cUL Recognized
- ✗ Multitasking of up to 24 simultaneous programs
- ✗ Interpolation of 8 axes in any combination
- ✗ ACR9030 has up 8 axes of analog servo or stepper control



NOW YOU CAN REGISTER ON-LINE FOR TRAINING CLASSES!

FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN LEARN AT BRAAS COMPANY

Spring - Summer 2008 training classes for our Eden Prairie, MN location are available on-line. For class descriptions or to register for training classes, go to www.braasco.com/training_courses.html

Custom classes are available upon request - see class descriptions and FAQ



Dorner's 2200 Series Conveyor

Improving on Quality

The 2200 Series conveyor platform makes it the lowest profile conveyor on the market today. Frame height as low as of 1.87" for securing parts to a fixed position on the conveyor's belt for inspection, assembly and accurate feeding. Vacuum options are also available for part holding and upside down applications.

Designed for light- to medium-duty applications, the 2200 Series now comes with a new feature to better accommodate cooling and draining applications - a perforated bedplate. The low profile 2200 Series is designed to fit in tight spaces and is ideal for applications such as: high-performance conveying, streamlined machine interface, small parts transfer, accumulation, high temperatures and sharp parts handling.

Also available, is a 1/2" diameter nose transfer option. This option eliminates the gap or valley formed by conveyors with larger diameter bearings, enabling customers to transfer small parts from the conveyor without getting caught in the gap or valley.



Features and benefits of the 2200 Series conveyors include:

- ✗ Ease of part transfers from conveyor to conveyor
- ✗ Aluminum extruded frame with T-slot construction
- ✗ Sealed ball bearings
- ✗ V-guided and non- V-guided belt compatible
- ✗ Rack and Pinion belt tensioning
- ✗ End and Center drive compatible
- ✗ Conveyor widths between 1.75" and 2"
- ✗ Conveyor lengths between 2' and 18'
- ✗ Load capacity up to 80 pounds
- ✗ Belt speeds of up to 264' per minute
- ✗ Multiple belt material options
- ✗ Backlit option for vision appliances

COGNEX'S NEW IN-SIGHT MICRO CAMERA

Powerful Performance - Simple to Set-up

The Cognex In-Sight Micro is the world's smallest, smartest, easiest, all-in-one vision system. Small in size, but big in performance. Micro users have the complete and proven In-Sight vision tool library available for all applications. Small size, combined with flexible mounting capability, makes the Micro easier to fit onto an existing machine, or saves real estate on a new machine. And, for those hard-to-reach inspections, the unique In-Sight non-linear calibration tool enables you to mount the Micro at up to a 45° angle. The most powerful In-Sight vision tools are now the easiest to use and are presented simply - from a control engineer's perspective, not an advanced vision engineers view point. The EasyBuilder interface walks you through the process of setting up your vision applications, step-by-step. Great for novice users, the application is deployed and running in a very short amount of time. EasyBuilder doesn't require users to learn programming, enabling them to focus on what's most familiar...the part!



How simple is it? Working from an image of the part, four simple steps complete the application set-up:

1. Start:
Find an In-Sight vision system on the network, and then be guided through triggering the vision system and setting up scale and non-linear calibrations.
2. Set-Up Tools:
After finding the part, a library of 22 vision tools is available to inspect the part. The most powerful vision tools available are now easy to use.
3. Configure:
A new point-and-click communications set-up provides easy selection of data to be sent, and the protocol to use for communicating to a PLC, robot, or HMI for data collection and archiving results.
4. Finish:
In the deployment mode, colorful tool graphics, results table, and filmstrip control to review images simplify troubleshooting the applications and identifying bad parts.

Contract Your Braas Company Sales Representative to schedule a demonstration today!

Braas Company
7970 Wallace Rd
Eden Prairie MN 55344

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SUSTAINING AN IMPROVEMENT CULTURE

Lessons learned from successes and failures

Does your company strive to be different and unique? By creating an improvement culture you can differentiate your company to be unique. So what do the best in the businesses do to create cultures that continuously reinvent their organizations? They use leadership. Here is a list of behaviors that do well in companies that push for improvement in their cultures.

Be Committed. This is the most critical element of creating a cultural transformation. The members of an organization will follow its leaders if they believe they are committed.

Effectively deal with uncertainty. Change??? People wonder if they will lose their job, skill abilities, or will be have to work harder for less pay. With these types of assumptions, people will find a way to resist.

A few tips on how to deal effectively with uncertainty: **Over communicate, Develop great coaching skills, and Ask for feedback.**

Demand performance that requires drastic change. There are three levels of goals. One: marginal improvement, this typically requires no real change in mindset, paradigms, or organizational structures. Two: Significant changes to achieve - the current process must be destroyed and be replaced by something much more effective. Three: Arbitrary and unachievable, although these goals serve no purpose, but to discourage. Set level two goals and demand they be reached. Give people the tools, training, and resources to achieve them, they will do it.

Have close tolerance for lack of commitment. You may find that by colluding with sub par commitments, you're tools and expectations were not properly set in place. Do not allow the gains you make to slip, even a little. Pay attention, be relentless, and experience the improvements.

Watch future issues of this newsletter to learn more about Lean. If you have questions or would like more information about Lean in the work place, contact Tim Bloudek at tim.bloudek@braasco.com

If you wish to be removed from the Braas Company mailing list for the "In Motion" newsletter or you would like to receive via e-mail, please send your e-mail request to marketing@braasco.com indicating your preference. Thank you

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