

// Application report BST ProControl: Online-Qualitycontrolsystem at Smurfit Kappa Zülpich



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PROFESSIONAL SERVICE IS THE DECISIVE CRITERION

With 45,000 employees, Smurfit Kappa is among the leading providers of paper-based packaging solutions. With 30 sites in Germany, the company is the market leader in this country. More than 200 employees produce natural paper that is used as cardboard and packaging boxes in supermarket shelves after further production steps at the Zülpich site.

The company uses only waste paper for production of raw paper for corrugated cardboard, thus laying the foundation for sustainable and environmentally compatible production. The two paper machines use water from the in-house sewage treatment plant and power from the internal gas- and coal-fired power plant for production. In correspondence with the corporate philosophy, Smurfit Kappa Zülpich Papier puts great value on continually efficient and high-quality production.

Closely connected to this, the company also puts great value on professional service and regular maintenance. BST ProControl is the company's ideal partner for professional implementation.

The service hotline is available around the clock

Due to his many years of experience, Lothar Mayntz, an electrical engineer who has worked for Smurfit Kappa Zülpich Papier in the area of automation for 20 years, was looking for a provider offering an open measuring system. In addition to the possibility of independent intervention, an individual service contract customised precisely to the company's needs was important to him. „The old system turned out to be a black box for us. We were unable to intervene when the values deviated too far from specifications. Lots of rejects were produced by the time the service employee was on site. We also had to conclude a service contract that we did not like at all,” Mayntz explains.

The service contract now concluded with BST ProControl is specifically customised to the application and the production environment in the paper factory. In the scope of negotiations, it became evident that the electrical engineer expects 100 percent availability and short times to reaction. This is required since the two most important values in the paper industry, i.e. grammage and moisture, are measured continually and must comply with specifications precisely. The decision for a maintenance contract was made because even a short failure of the systems will cause immensely high costs. The contract includes one maintenance



per quarter as well as 7/24/365-support. If support is needed, the customer can reach the internal service hotline of BST ProControl at any time. The technician there will ask targeted questions so that support in person on the phone is ensured. As a special service, BST ProControl offers the first 2 hours of phone support free of charge. Experience shows that it becomes evident after only 15 minutes whether the fault can be removed by phone and remote access, or must be resolved on site. If this is the case, the contract intends for arrival of the service technician within two hours after the call. *„Generally, we can see that more and more providers neglect the service area. BST ProControl is different. If there is a problem, we can always call someone who will be on site quickly if necessary. The more complex the systems, the more important it is that the technicians know about mechanics, electrical engineering and software equally well,“* Mayntz summarises.

Another benefit results from use of standard components that can be delivered just-in-time. 80 percent of the required spare parts will be available at once, not only reducing the downtime to a minimum but also clearly reducing the customer's required stock of spare parts and store rooms.

Modernisation of the systems and regular maintenance ensure good measuring results

In addition to the customised service, the factory in Zülpich also profits of the different modernisation steps. The components at the paper machine PM 4, which produces paper with a weight of 90-105 g/m², were modernised, while a completely new system with sensors was implemented for production of paper in the range of 100-150 g/m². Grammage and moisture are measured on both plants. Grammage is recorded contact-free by a radiometric isotope sensor with Krypton 85.

The radiometric measuring procedure has proven its worth in everyday use and records process fluctuations quickly. A too-high moisture value can negatively affect the running capacity and paper quality. Therefore, this value is recorded continually with the infrared measuring method, which is characterised by an accuracy of 0.1 percent. *„BST ProControl offers everything from a single source, good service and times to reaction due to flexible and solution-oriented technicians. Thanks to regular maintenance of the plants, we achieve the measuring results that are decisive for the quality level of our products,“* Lothar Mayntz concludes.



SERVICE THAT THINKS. AND HELPS YOU GET FURTHER.

BST ProControl is specialized in the planning, production, implementation and modernization of instrumentation, control (e.g. coating thickness, layer thickness or basis weight) and automation (ICA) components.

Sensors designed for specific applications, combined with sophisticated automation and visualization systems, ensure precise registration, complete monitoring and analysis by basis weight measurement.

All measuring solutions by BST ProControl are applied in very different production processes, starting with plastic and metal sheeting, paper and textiles. The productions of foams, floor coverings, non-woven fabrics, metal sheets as well as products for the automotive industry are also important areas of application.

SERVICE NEEDED? JUST CALL US!

Do you have any questions or wishes concerning our service offer? The head of our service centre, Ms Heike Wachlinger, is looking forward to your call or email.

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Contact us: We are there for you!

We are happy to help!

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