

Providing Solutions for Customer's Unique Challenges

Designing Control Panels for Expansion



The growth of your business is as rewarding as it is challenging. While success has many benefits, one can't deny that failing to implement a plan for expansion can often lead to problematic situations, including lost production and wasted resources.

SUCCESS STORY

Several years ago, a company we worked with in the food industry approached us with a major challenge; They had designed and sold an innovative new process to numerous plants throughout the U.S. that would revolutionize how food is treated before packaging. Though they knew it would ultimately be used on multiple lines per plant, it did not make business sense for them to purchase and install all the components that might eventually be necessary. They needed a control panel that could be added to over time and, if the process proved to be successful, could accommodate the power requirement and many components essential to run all lines in a plant without creating extensive production downtime and work required by field installers.

Simplex was up for the challenge. Our control panels included all parts necessary to meet the final potential full load current, and the PLCs were sized to support the expansion as well. We thoughtfully crafted the panel layout so that logical grouping of components would continue to exist, even after additional components were installed in the field. Perhaps the greatest success of this project was the way in which we designed the panel to support additional lines in the future. We understand that lost production can impact a company's bottom line and ability to meet their customers' needs immensely. Therefore, we wanted the process of adding components to the panel to be as quick and easy as possible. We designed the main enclosure sub-panel to include mounting studs that were sized for smaller sub-panels to attach to. We could then send completed sub-panels as needed, which were populated with the additional components and wiring required for each additional line. The field installer would then simply attach the new sub-panel to the studs and make the connections. Needless to say, the company was thrilled with the solutions we provided for them and has successfully implemented these control panels across the U.S.



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