Arla Foods improves quality using data from golden batches
Collecting data efficiently and thereby creating documentation is an important competitive factor for companies today. Customers insist on receiving documentation to confirm that they are buying a quality product and they make great demands on their suppliers for traceability and optimized control over production.

**The need for process control**

Production at Arla Foods amba — Danmark Protein in Videbæk, Denmark has always been highly automated. With a large number of process lines and complex logistics, there was a great need for an efficient IT system to continually integrate process control, data collection, data registration and administrative systems. As the result of a thorough analysis, the choice fell to Proficy Plant Applications from GE Digital and partner, Novotek.

**Traceability very important**

Arla Foods amba – Danmark Protein processes whey, a byproduct from making cheese at Danish and Swedish dairies. The whey is used to make protein and lactose powders, which are sold to the food industry and other divisions within Arla. The factory has a staff of 200 and produces around 42,000 tons of powder a year. “Efficiency, quality and traceability are very important factors for us,” says Arla Foods project leader René Nørgaard. “The aim is to optimize the control of key parameters, the utilization of capacity and logistics within the factory at the same time as setting up an efficient system for collecting detailed data from every single batch we make.”

**Less paperwork**

“Data is more accessible and can quickly be used in various reports for documentation and optimization”

— René Nørgaard, Project leader, Arla Foods amba, Denmark
The introduction of Proficy MES not only has an effect at the process line level, it also has an administrative and organizational impact on the factory’s management and the Group. It is too early to say if there have been any positive concrete effects on efficiency or quality following the implementation of the system but a time saving in data collection can already be seen. “Paperwork in connection with the registration and interpretation of data took long time before we started using Proficy. One of the major advantages with Proficy is that it takes care of much of the paperwork and thus saves an enormous number of man-hours. At the same time data is more accessible and can quickly be used in various reports for documentation and optimization. We can put the resources freed in this way to much better use.”

**Data from golden batches**

“A specific aim with data collection is to define what we call golden batches, where production is optimal and the quality high. We want to use the parameters from specific successful batches to optimize the process lines so that we are able to improve quality in ensuing batches,” says René Nørgaard.

“One of the reasons for choosing Proficy was that it is an open system that can be directly integrated with our other systems.”

— René Nørgaard,
Project leader, Arla Foods amba, Denmark
About GE

GE (NYSE: GE) is the world’s Digital Industrial Company, transforming industry with software-defined machines and solutions that are connected, responsive and predictive. GE is organized around a global exchange of knowledge, the “GE Store,” through which each business shares and accesses the same technology, markets, structure and intellect. Each invention further fuels innovation and application across our industrial sectors. With people, services, technology and scale, GE delivers better outcomes for customers by speaking the language of industry.

Contact Information

www.ge.com/digital

©2020 General Electric. All rights reserved. *Trademark of General Electric. All other brands or names are property of their respective holders. Specifications are subject to change without notice. 04 2020