

Forever Board picks JF Automation USA as Electrical Controls Systems Integrator to retrofit Production Line



Veteran inventor, Ronald J. Voit sees gypsum boards used everywhere in construction as drywall building material. But he remains undaunted about bringing a mold-resistant alternative called Forever Board to the market. "It's just a matter of getting everybody familiar with the product," Voit said of his invention.

Buffalo is the hub for his hopes. A few years ago, Voit bought a vacant factory near the Buffalo

River in South Buffalo and moved in production equipment he acquired from a defunct plant in Ohio. (Matt Glynn – The Buffalo News - May 15, 2014)

After 10 years of product development Forever Board was ready to ramp up production on a retrofit gypsum board production line. However, the machinery still needed major modifications, including total upgrade of the electrical controls.



Modern factories and production plants rely heavily on highly engineered and complex computerized control systems to guarantee high production rates, reliable quality and cost efficient operations.

Forever Board contracted with local industrial system integrator JF Automation USA, located in Tonawanda, NY. JF Automation USA had the expertise and personnel to upgrade the electrical control system from an old style (manual and relay control) into an integrated modern system. JF Automation USA has broad industrial experience, but specializes in Siemens programmable controllers (PLCs), CNCs, and servo drives and controls. Their engineers have designed, installed, upgraded, and commissioned hundreds of machine control systems over the past quarter century, and the local office could call on branch offices in Canada and China if required.

Forever Board's requirements were simple, but not easy :

- Design, engineer, build, and commission the Control System in less than 30 days ARO.
- Build in maximum flexibility since the final process and machine design are still evolving
- Keep costs down by re-using as much existing equipment as possible

When JF Automation USA turned the “Power On” only 28 days after receiving the Purchase Order, customer Ron Voit was ecstatic. “They exceeded my expectations in every way. JF Automation USA truly partnered with us. They did not just try to sell us a bunch of expensive hardware. They talked to us to understand our business and our process. They gave us control and flexibility that we did not even know we needed. And they really squeezed maximum value out of some of the old equipment that was re-used. I couldn’t be happier with their support.”

SIEMENS

The latest version of Siemens Programmable Logic Controller (PLC – S7-1200) was selected for overall line control. The PLC has Industrial Ethernet networking capability, and allows seamless integration with the “Human Machine Interface” (HMI), an interactive touch screen display that gives the machine operator total control and instant feedback status on production.

Main Panel before Retrofit



Main Panel after retrofit by JF Automation USA



JF Automation USA Inc. provides Systems Integration, PLC design, panel building, circuit board and motor repair and on-site contract controls engineering services in Buffalo, NY USA; Mississauga, Canada; and Shanghai, China.