

Glass quality scanners can only serve their purpose if the information they provide is processed to best effect. This is where Albat + Wirsam's production control systems can play an important role

Scanner systems supply data for production control

Scanners as part of the production line combine the verification of sheet sizes with an efficient and reliable quality check of the glass surface. Modern solutions can even handle the third dimension, checking the edge quality.

These systems serve their purpose only if the precious information they supply is processed to the best effect. When a quality scanner detects a damaged sheet, the desired consequence is not that a worker picks up a sheet of paper and takes it to the cutting table in order to have the sheet cut by hand. Scanners should not work as an isolated unit but should be integrated in the production network.

ALBAT+WIRSAM's production control system ALCIM demonstrates how this is done to the user's benefit. The sheet data determined by the barcode scanners is compared with the production control settings; differences are registered online. If necessary, the machine operator can react quickly without interrupting the production flow. Breakage reports from the quality scanners trigger remakes which are made – real-time of course – by the flick of a switch, or automatically. This way, the essential target of automation is achieved: The constant flow of glass.

ALBAT+WIRSAM closely co-operates with VIPROTRON but also if required with all suppliers mentioned above. Kai Vogel, Managing Director of VIPROTRON: "We do highly appreciate ALBAT+WIRSAM as an excellent integration partner and are currently working together on several interesting projects. Another advantage in our common projects is that ALBAT+WIRSAM has been successfully co-operating with our machine partners for years, so that we can form small project-related innovation networks."

Günter Befort, Managing Director of ALBAT+WIRSAM, adds: "The scanner systems of our partners are ultra-precise and gain in importance as efficient production control modules all the time. We have implemented internationally, exemplary projects together with VIPOTRON, especially in the field of IG and pre-processing."

The use of scanner technology in toughened glass production is rapidly progressing. These are systems for analysing and graphically displaying the furnace bed. Sheet sequences,

sheet sizes, shapes, and processing steps will be viewed and analysed. GLASTON iLook or the VIPROTRON PG scanner reliably detect all discernible defects like blisters, scratches, small stones, pewter, dirt, burns, roller impressions, etc. iLook checks the entire furnace bed and individual sheets alike for roller wave and any local warpage. The result of the scan can be compared with the settings in the ALCIM production database by means of new software tools which can be adapted to the customer's needs. Differences and errors will be reported back to the system.

Altogether, ALBAT+WIRSAM's latest-generation production systems supply much more customised, real-time information based on the fact that modern machinery include more and more information technology which cannot only process information and instructions, but also create data that ALBAT+WIRSAM systems can import and process further. Take toughened glass for example: Toughening automation systems like GLASTON's iControl provide scanner systems and production control with data right from the 'hot heart' of the furnace. This makes the entire production process more exact, and more accurately controllable: It becomes faster and optimised. In such a production environment, a 'twisted' toughened glass sheet or batch will not even reach the stage at which it could cause annoyance and unnecessary costs: Damaged sheets – if there are any in this largely automated and electronically monitored process – will be removed from the production process right away, and are not only immediately cut again thanks to the ALCIM production network, but also integrated in the following processes – without much ado. The entire material flow is adapted real-time.

Günter Befort: "ALBAT+WIRSAM not only connects machinery but also the electronic systems of all leading manufacturers – including scanner systems. The customer selects the technologies that suit him best – we provide the network!"

ALBAT+WIRSAM is exhibiting at VITRUM 2011: Hall 24, Stand L 09

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The VIPROTRON quality scanner reports breakage via the machine-related 'interlayer' A+W PANDRAMA to ALBAT+WIRSAM's production control system. The line 'knows' that the dirty or damaged sheet and its counterpane will be removed from the line and the following sheet pair is produced instead.



GLASTON's iLook checks complete furnace beds or individual sheets alike for waves and warped edges. The results can be compared with the settings in the ALCIM production database which can be adapted to the customer's requirements. Differences and errors will be reported to the ALBAT+WIRSAM system right away; remakes will be triggered automatically. As a result, the quality of the toughened sheets is guaranteed, the entire processing process is sped up and optimised.

Merciless and reliable, quality scanners detect faults and irregularities in single sheets, IG units, and toughened sheets. They do it better than the most experienced worker.

System suppliers like Vipotron, Softsolutions, Liseo or Glaston with its iLook system provide these infallible, optoelectronic eyes for production lines and toughening furnaces. Integrated in comprehensive production control systems, they compare default and actual data and return precious information which forms the basis for remakes, machine adjustment, or quality assurance.