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PRESS RELEASE

MENZ&GASSER CHOOSES RELATECH/EFA AUTOMAZIONE TO LEAD DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Thanks to Ignition and Kepware, the company has transformed its Novaledo (TN) plant into a data-driven industry, acquiring and centralizing heterogeneous data, monitoring lines in real time, and significantly reducing waste. This has improved efficiency and margins.

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Thanks to Inductive Automation's Ignition software platform, distributed and supported in Italy by **Relatech SpA** through its subsidiary **EFA Automazione SpA**, **Menz&Gasser** has transformed its production plant in Novaledo into a smart factory.

A historic Italian food company founded in 1935 in South Tyrol, Menz&Gasser specialises in the production and distribution of jams, marmalades, spreads, peanut butter and honey which, together with sauces and savoury semi-finished products, leave its factories every year, packaged in over 70 different types of packaging for an equivalent of about 100 thousand tonnes of product each year.

The digitalisation project implemented by Menz&Gasser has made it possible to acquire and centralise heterogeneous data, monitor lines in real time, significantly reduce waste and make processes more efficient, with particular reference to quality control and traceability. In all this, Ignition has played a decisive role: thanks to its ability to communicate with heterogeneous environments - also with the support of **KepserverEX**, Kepware's communication software also distributed by Relatech/EFA Automazione - the acquired data are conveyed to an OPC Server, which acts as a central aggregator of all information.

The data collected from the field is then transformed into concrete value, i.e. information that is always up-to-date and consistent, useful for guiding production processes. This architecture has also brought an advantage in terms of cybersecurity, since no third-party application directly accesses the machines, reducing the risk of interference with production processes.

The information acquired in real-time, which is essential for monitoring the lines and carrying out any interventions in a timely manner, is displayed through numerous dedicated interfaces which, through HMIs and customised dashboards, show performance, consumption and other indicators.

At the same time, part of the data is stored in a SQL server, where Business Intelligence tools - specifically Microsoft Power BI - allow you to perform statistical analysis and strategic insights.

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A flexible and scalable ecosystem

Ignition's limitless model, which makes it a completely open and scalable platform, capable of managing tags without unlimited loss of performance, has made it possible to start from a small perimeter – as in the specific case of Menz&Gasser, with three pilot lines – and gradually extend the system to the entire plant.

With Ignition's Perspective module, data can be accessed from any device – from line-side panel PCs to large plant displays – ensuring maximum usability.

Ignition's functionalities are the basis of many tools, some already operational, others under development, dedicated to the digitization of process sheets, packaging traceability and energy consumption analysis, also allowing the way to be paved for artificial intelligence applications - for example to provide voice assistance on lines - and predictive maintenance.

"In our journey towards a data-driven industry, we realized that it was necessary to standardize a heterogeneous ecosystem in which a true global vision was lacking. It is from these considerations that the owners decided to focus on a total digitalisation project and, consequently, on Ignition," explains Michele Tosato, plant manager at Menz&Gasser's Novaledo (TN) plant.

"Ignition today represents one of the most powerful and complete platforms for industry 4.0", says **Pasquale Lambardi, President and Founder of Relatech S.p.A.** and **CEO of EFA Automazione S.p.A.** "The project developed demonstrates how, thanks to our offer of cutting-edge solutions, our skills and the vision of customers such as Menz&Gasser, it is possible to transform a factory into a true smart industry, where every piece of data becomes knowledge and every piece of information generates value for the business."

Menz&Gasser is now looking to the future with the aim of creating an MES built on its specific needs, taking advantage of the openness and flexibility of Ignition to create a tailor-made solution, oriented towards efficiency, traceability and freedom of future integration.

The main advantages obtained are as follows:

- Data-driven manufacturing: with Ignition and Kepware, it was possible to achieve centralized data management, useful for making informed decisions.
- Real-time data & databases for BI: Real-time data monitoring and presentation, with SQL storage to perform data analysis tasks.
- Dematerialization of documentation: transformation of paper reports and checklists into operational information and automatic alerts.



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- Advanced HMIs with Perspective: scalable dashboards on all devices, Mobile App that offers further potential for monitoring and future development.
- Artificial Intelligence: voice-assisted maintenance activity with automatic recognition of the line, cause of the intervention, suggestions for solutions, etc.
- Al-assisted quality: Automated label verification to reduce errors.
- Complete traceability: from raw material to packaging, up to the finished product shipped, everything under control in real time.
- Customized MES: Tailor-made module development with plenty of freedom for future integration

If you are interested in the full case study of Menz&Gasser's experience, please contact the references at the bottom of the press release.

Relatech, Digital Enabler Solution Know-how (DESK) has been active for over twenty years in frontier Digital Enabler technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Cloud, IoT, Big Data, Blockchain, Machine Learning. Relatech is the reference partner for the Digital Innovation of companies and leads a group of companies highly specialized in Digital Enabler Technologies united by the common mission of supporting customers in the digital transformation process. Relatech constantly invests in Open Innovation with an intense R&D activity carried out by internal hubs in collaboration with universities and national research centers. Thanks to the RePlatform digital platform and the know-how deriving from the ecosystem of scientific and technological partners, Relatech develops digital services and solutions capable of innovating the business model of its customers, ensuring sustainable business growth for all those companies that see the digital innovation process as the key to current and future success.

EFA Automazione SpA, part of the Relatech group, has been operating for 30 years in the field of industrial automation with products, solutions and know-how dedicated to the world of connectivity for system integration. An absolute forerunner of some of the issues that permeate the current 4.0 scenario, EFA Automazione has anticipated many technological trends, including that of IoT, which it currently rides as a protagonist by offering cutting-edge solutions in the use of the cloud and wireless communication in all its architectural forms. EFA Automazione is a unique reality in the national industrial landscape, able to offer a strategic advantage to all stakeholders in the ecosystem of which it is part: customers, system integrators, partners and suppliers. The synergy with Relatech makes EFA Automazione a hub equipped with 360-degree skills, technologies and assets in the field of IT/OT convergence, through which companies - both SMEs and large companies - can access the most advanced digital technologies to solve all the needs of connectivity, collection, analysis and protection of data and machines in order to increase their margins and compete better and better on their outlet markets.

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