Semper increased the efficiency of the packaging lines with AXXOS OEE

In the beginning of 2015, Semper decided to install AXXOS OEE in its production facility in Götene. Since then, production monitoring and development has improved considerably. Not least due to more efficient morning meetings with clear reports about reasons for downtime as well as visualization of current OEE values in office landscapes and break rooms.

The plant in Götene produces baby food in the form of porridge, infant formula, special infant formula as well as gluten-free flour / bread mixes. These products are produced in six packing lines, and these are the ones that Semper initially chose to connect to AXXOS OEE.

Jörgen Thunholm has been working as the manufacturing manager at the Götene plant for three years. He provides some background for the decision to install AXXOS OEE.

The operator must own his own production data

"From my point-of-view, it is important that, as an operator, you own your own production data. This is where the AXXOS system is very strong. Because the system signals production downtime in real-time and it is the operator himself who directly reports into the system what the cause of them are, there is a lot to win."

Facts about Semper

In the Nordic region, Semper is the leading player within baby food and gluten-free categories. The company has a turnover of approximately EUR 130 million and has about 200 employees in the Nordic region. Exports account for about 25 percent of sales.

Headquartered in Sundbyberg and Nordic offices in Oslo, Helsinki and Copenhagen. Götene's production facility produces porridge, infant formula, special infant formula and gluten-free mixer. Since 2006 Semper is owned by the international food group Hero. Hero was founded in 1886 and is now privately owned with headquarters in Lenzburg, Switzerland.

"In other surveillance solutions, the system itself to some extent can determine what the reason for downtime is. With AXXOS OEE, we can choose to give the operator, who knows best, the ability to report the causes of disturbance when it occurs", he explains.

At the Götene plant they previously worked with manual production follow-up. This meant collecting production data prior to each morning meeting and then looking through it together and trying to find out what caused downtime in production. Since the operators did not register the stop as it occurred, it was difficult to remember exactly what had happened. Something that in turn could lead to guesstimations and assumptions. Nowadays these important daily morning meetings work in a completely different way.

"By using AXXOS OEE, I now have a complete report for each morning meeting. We are 20 people who under 15 minutes review which major issues have occurred during the previous day / night. It is very simple and more time-efficient than previously. We review all registered and reported downtimes and make a quick decision on which of these we will focus on."

"VWe then go out in smaller groups, look at the issues and solve them quickly and efficiently. The big difference is that we have facts about the previous day's production instead of guesswork", says Jörgen Thunholm.

Visualization of OEE numbers in real-time

Semper installed AXXOS Visualize and display current OEE values and information about the status of each order. The fact that this information is displayed continuously throughout the office landscape and break rooms via an internal television system has resulted in a good production overview as well as an increased sense of involvement for the entire staff.

"That's correct. At even intervals a real-time overview is displayed where you can see the status of all the machines. The fact that everyone can see this increases their sense of participation, among other things, by giving each other feedback in a completely different way. One example is when our financial manager is in the break room and notice a machine running very well and then gives the operator praise on his way back to his office."

The OEE value improved by 16 percent in a short period

Already in 2016, it was found that the combined OEE value for the packaging lines had improved from 50 to 58 percent. Which has led to that Semper is now in the process of expanding the installation of AXXOS OEE to other parts of production in addition to the packaging lines.

Jörgen Thunholm, Semper

"The OEE values continues to rise, even if the rate of increase usually decreases slightly after the first year. Today, we have much better control over our production time, which is an important key. We are amid of increasing the number of production places, and we also see that there is great interest in the system among our factories in Europe. For instance, I know that our Turkish factory is in the process of installing the system", says Jörgen Thunholm.

Important step towards Industry 4.0

Jörgen Thunholm had positive experiences of working with AXXOS OEE prior to joining Semper, which contributed to the investment decision and to the choice of partners. He believes that more and more industrial companies will want to, and need to work this way in the future.

"Yes, I have a hard time seeing how anyone would be able to work without this type of control in the future. The next step is to look at the maintenance part. Therefore, I see AXXOS partnership with Danish API as a very positive and important step towards the Industry 4.0 vision. Operators should own their own data for best overview and control to be able to manage what we today have office personnel for. In 15 years, I think most of the manufacturing industry in Europe will work this way. We are going to see a sharp shift of responsibility, competence and duties to the individual operator", says Jörgen Thunholm.

AXXOS Solution at Semper
- ▶ AXXOS OEE Client
- ▶ AXXOS Visualize
- ▶ AXXOS Analyze
- ▶ AXXOS OEE Mobile