



Unitronics Vision570™ Controller Cuts Costs on Gas Blending Equipment

For over 24 years, EnviroNics, Inc. of Connecticut has been designing, and manufacturing computerized gas blending and mixing equipment to a global market. They were recently approached by a customer to reduce the cost of their current gas prices. The customer was using a tremendous amount of premixed gas from expensive tube trailers that were being delivered by their onsite gas supplier for a food packaging application. Part of the gas mixture consisted of a very small amount of Carbon Monoxide, which is sometimes used to package beef and pork. This reduces the amount of meat that is spoiled and needs to be scrapped. This process allows the beef to retain its red color and have a longer shelf life, all of which has been FDA approved.

The Vision570™ was used to customize the gas blender much quicker than changing the embedded software of EnviroNics' other gas blending systems. "The customers love the color touch screen as well as the remote operating utility." Said Tom Bamford, EnviroNics' Director of Engineering. "We went with the Vision570™ because it has ample display space to perform the functions we needed. Also, the integrated PLC allowed us to provide control and monitoring that is not available in any of our standard products." Most importantly, the controller provided alarms in the event of failure; as product (or in this case, meat) is at risk of being scrapped if the gas blend is not correct. "The remote operating utility is very advantageous to our customer. The instrument is remotely located away from the process and workers". Bamford said.



"We were able to customize the instrument to the customer's need in a short period of time, because of the high level programming features of VisiLogic." Said Bamford. "Our customer saved significant dollars in not having to purchase expensive premixed gas." They now use what is called bulk tanks, 100% of each gas, and mix to their desired ratio. With this amount of savings, the customer was able to pay for the instrument in just a few months.

"Unitronics' technical support is very responsive." Said Bamford. "For me this is crucial, as we have strict deadlines in getting our instruments to our customers. When problems suddenly arise, a quick solution is necessary. Not to mention, we are also provided with top notch sales and service from our Unitronics distributor."