Super Systems Inc. Provides Retrofit, Complete Controls Upgrades for Sona BLW Precision Forge, Inc.

Sona BLW Precision Forge, Inc., a high quality metal treating company that provides forging services to commercial trucking and other markets, selected Super Systems Inc. (SSi) as its controls and SCADA partner for upgrades in its Heat Treating Department.

In 2012, SSi provided temperature and atmosphere control with data acquisition, recipe management, and full furnace I/O all in one controller for three atmosphere furnaces. This was accomplished using the 9010 enhanced setpoint programmer (eSPP) with the SSi Compact HMI platform, which provides user-defined pushbutton control, visualization, alarms, and status screens.

In early 2013 Sona decided to replace a large number of controls in its heat treat facility. After the success of the 2012 installation, SSi was again selected as the controls provider, and again SSi delivered. The installation required complete control panels for four batch integral quench furnaces, four temper furnaces, one parts washer, and two endothermic generators. A combination of SSi 9000 Series controllers and Compact HMI touchscreens provided control and visual interfaces, while SSi’s SuperDATA package was installed to provide a supervisory data acquisition and monitoring solution with parts traceability, historical data and trending, complete load tracking, and job visibility throughout the heat treating process. Scanner capabilities were also included in this installation.

SSi field engineer Steve Christopher discussed the 2013 installation, where the motto was “heat in 24 hours.” Steve elaborated: “We wanted a quality installation with minimal downtime for the customer’s heat treat operation. No more than 24 hours shutdown for any furnace. This included removal of the old system and installation of the new system, such as panels, controllers, and motors. Over the second 24 hours, we performed final testing of the code and alarms before returning the system to the customer for temperature uniformity and quality testing.”

The customer provided additional insight. “Working with SSi on the 2012 installation, we learned more about their products, including 9000 Series instruments, customized HMI platform, and turnkey engineering services for heat treat controls,” said Rod Kennedy, continuous improvement and heat treat manager for Sona. “Partnering with SSi on our control and instrumentation upgrades was an easy choice. This partnership has allowed us to maximize the quality and efficiency of our heat treat processes while minimizing downtime.”
Super Systems Inc., based in Cincinnati, Ohio, has been developing and manufacturing products for the thermal processing industry since 1995. SSi’s products include probes, analyzers, controllers, software solutions and engineered systems. With more than 100 years of combined experience, SSi has been addressing industry demands with the technology customers need to be more efficient and produce higher quality products.

More information on Sona services can be found at http://www.sonablw.com. More information on SSi services can be found at http://www.supersystems.com.