

Food/Cereal Extrusion Process

Automated Cooking Extrusion Lines

- ✓ Extrusion Automation
- ✓ BCI AUTOPILOT®

Kerry Sweet Ingredients
Gardner, KS

Kell Wendler
Process Engineer
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Integrating BCI AUTOPILOT® not only allowed us to upgrade the controls, but brought about procedures that improved the operation of the machine overall. It was almost turnkey. If we'd used an integrator who was not familiar with extrusion, I would have been the one developing the improvements — not a small task. After seeing Bachelor Controls and BCI AUTOPILOT® in operation, it was a “no brainer” to recommend this upgrade for the rest of our extruders.

Kell Wendler
Process Engineer

BCI AUTOPILOT™



Bachelor Controls, Inc.

Systems Integration for Manufacturing

Project Summary

Kerry Sweet Ingredients supplies a full range of innovative and value-added ingredients to key manufacturers in the functional, frozen dessert, cereal, confectionery and bakery markets. Kerry's customers are quite literally the world's biggest and best-known food manufacturers, retailers and restaurants, so when it needed an extrusion automation system for its Fremont (NE) plant, the BCI AUTOPILOT® system from Bachelor Controls was the system of choice.



Photo courtesy of Kerry Americas

Objectives / Requirements

Automate and implement an extrusion process for a food/cereal product line, including

- Integrate two BCI AUTOPILOT® units to control two different extrusion lines
- Integrate BCI AUTOPILOT® into an existing production system, allowing for equipment upgrades and other future line changes and improvements
- Link the extruder formula setup/management system to legacy systems and device-specific controls to provide a seamless integration from batching through the post-extrusion process
- Monitor process performance and quality

Results / Benefits

In the end, the BCI AUTOPILOT® integration provided successful, measurable results, including

- Substantial increase in system throughput on many products
- Reduced time requirements for startups and shutdowns resulting in loss reductions and improved scheduling flexibility
- Enabled electronic collection of processing data to drive proactive measures for system optimization
- Enhanced preventative maintenance information with simple integration into existing program



Photo courtesy of Kerry Americas

A significant portion of our increased capacity and throughput on our cereal/direct expanded cereal lines can be attributed to the integration of the BCI AUTOPILOT® automated extrusion control system.

Jeff Brugger
Engineering Manager

