Manufacturing Technology

Q&A

With Contec

In March 2019, Contec joined over 250 industry peers to exchange ideas around the impact of market dynamics and new technologies for current and future manufacturing, operations and supply chain leaders. Ryan Legg, VP of Industrial Solutions at Contec Americas, presented on the topic, Simple and Effective Approaches to Include Legacy Equipment as Part of Your Industry 4.0 Strategy. His discussion focused on effective data that can enhance productivity coming from legacy technology; connecting legacy systems to Industry 4.0 deployments; and examples of legacy system connectivity.

Ahead of the American Manufacturing Summit 2019, Generis Group spoke with Ryan to discuss technology in the manufacturing industry. In this Q&A, we examine Contec's solutions; how manufacturers can leverage IoT to reduce cost, enhance efficiency and increase bottom line; and what the manufacturing landscape will look like in 5-10 years.

How can manufacturers leverage IoT to reduce cost, enhance efficiency and increase bottom line?

IoT can mean many things to different people. While we use the term IoT -- which technically translates to Internet of Things -- the concept is really about connectivity and visibility, whether you have a system that is truly connected to the Internet or an on-prem system. Value can be realized with both approaches.

Collecting and analyzing data allows an organization to gain visibility where they did not have it before. A manufacturer may discover previously unknown bottlenecks in their process or that throughput is slowing on one particular shift. They may simply display on an Andon system what productivity goals are and measure whether they are being achieved. These are just a few examples of where you can easily see the opportunity for immediate and significant efficiency improvements leading to an improved bottom line.

Tell us about Contec's services. How do they benefit manufacturers?

Contec serves a variety of industries including medical, automotive, security, transportation, aerospace, material handling and energy, among others. Contec's core technologies include industrial computing, data acquisition, industrial networking and M2M/IoT solutions.

What are some quantifiable outcomes your clients have seen after implementing Contec's solutions?

With the implementation of our M2M/IoT solutions, our clients have seen quantifiable increases in production quality while simultaneously reducing downtime and increasing efficiencies.

Why do manufacturers choose to work with Contec? What makes Contec unique?

With our M2M/IoT solutions, we offer a control agnostic platform which is critical to manufacturers who have multiple control products in their facilities. Our solution can work seamlessly with these various platforms.

We also go the extra mile for our customers, such as methodically managing and planning the product lifecycle of our systems directly with the client so that there are no surprises.

Where do you see the manufacturing industry in the next 5-10 years?

We truly believe we are at the beginning stages of the next industrial revolution, Industry 4.0, and we predict that the manufacturing industry will become even more connected. In the next 5-10 years, we will see further breakthroughs in predictive maintenance and a world where unplanned downtime in a factory could be virtually eliminated. We are positioning ourselves to serve our customers in these areas as this next industrial revolution continues.