

CD Automation and intelligent control systems

The solutions to reduce the complexity and the costs of the plant



Interview with CD Automation's Innovation team: Simone Brizzi, Luca Brizzi and Stefano Colombo.

What's the business of CD Automation?

Approximately 33 years ago, the market of plastics machine manufacturers has been our first market. At that time, we contributed to create the first supervision systems for extrusion lines with thermoregulators equipped with serial communication.

Since then, we help realities that build plastic machines to reduce the complexity and the costs of the plant, integrating thermoregulation systems based on static relays.

In our plants located in Legnano, (Italy), Ajmer (India) and Brighton (England) we design and manufacture power control solutions that can be used in order to optimize consumptions, to reduce disturbances on the power grid and to drive all the thermoregulations zones with a small footprint into the electric cabinet.

All our systems can be integrated with all the main Bus Fields and they can provide Wi-Fi access in order to facilitate the remote configuration and the monitoring of the unit.

As of today, what are the innovations you are focusing on?

As of today, our main challenge is to realize easily integrated power con-

trol modules, with the awareness that one of our regulation units, which have low prices, can guarantee reliability and a great added value to the plant. We realize products that are modular, easily configurable and integrable with other realities, with the objective of reducing the costs of the installation and of the realization of the plant, but without sacrificing our main features: reliability and simplicity of the products.

What is the function of a CD Automation product in a plastic processing system?

Our product is a kind of "orchestra director" that simplifies the management of the plant making it more

efficient with the utmost attention to the consumptions.

How do you interpret the “simplification” process?

The one of “simplification” is the main topic in our designers’ agendas, it is part of our DNA. Working with us or with our products must be SIMPLE.

We do know that our products – in addition to the installation by the implant manufacturer or by an integrator system – can be subjected to any intervention implemented even by non-specialized technicians. For this reason, our units can be easily configured through a display and a frontal keypad without necessarily using a computer.

However, you can configure our units through a free software that can be downloaded from our website.

Also, the documentation follows the principle of maximum simplicity: there is one synthetic format which is directly accessible to everybody, and another one that is much more detailed for the specialists.

We ensure that technicians are never left alone, making available the PDF documentation that can be downloaded from the website and providing assistance via telephone, app, mail or chat. We provide a “premium” assistance that guarantees the worldwide delivery of replacement parts within 48 hours.

How do you interpret the Industry 4.0?

In an ideal world where everything is connected, our thermoregulation systems operate in perfect integration with the Bus Field, are accessible through TCP/IP and Wi-Fi and do have a spe-

cialized app that facilitates the control and the monitoring of the system and they allow the access to operating statistics. Not everywhere internet is available. For security reasons, the plants are not always connected to the internet or to the company network. To consider all the possible scenarios, we have prepared some “transitional” solutions that in case of emergency do guarantee the direct access to our products with Wi-Fi connection via smartphone.

Our systems can be remotely repaired, and they offer the possibility to collect operating data in order to monitor and optimize the process. This promotes the digitalization of the production processes, the processing of the collected data, the interconnection between systems and the data exchange in production environments at different levels of automation for the monitoring, the diagnostics, and the analysis of production processes through the data logger and the oscilloscope functionalities of our configurator.

New communication techniques allow our help desk to help the client even through teleassistance.

How is your customer service/help desk structured?

Our customer service is always operational; we have got a dedicated team that is trained to assist all the clients with their different requests.

Let me make an example: During the start-up of a plant in the UAE, one of our customers had the necessity to modify the typology of the input signal from 0-10V to 4-20mA.

Thanks to the teleassistance we took the control of the unit and we configured it in few minutes taking

into account the requests of the customer and giving the possibility to end the commissioning phase, avoiding an on-site intervention and possible fines.

Our support service is extremely important. We do know perfectly that whether a technician needs help, he could find himself in an uncomfortable situation.

For this reason, why we invest many resources in our customer service and in all the tools that can be useful for the teleassistance.

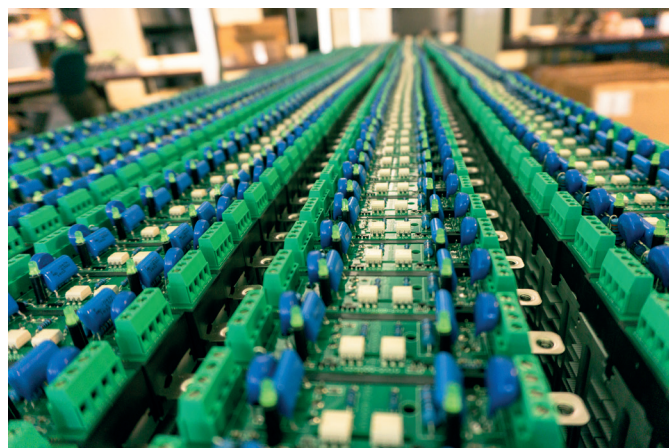
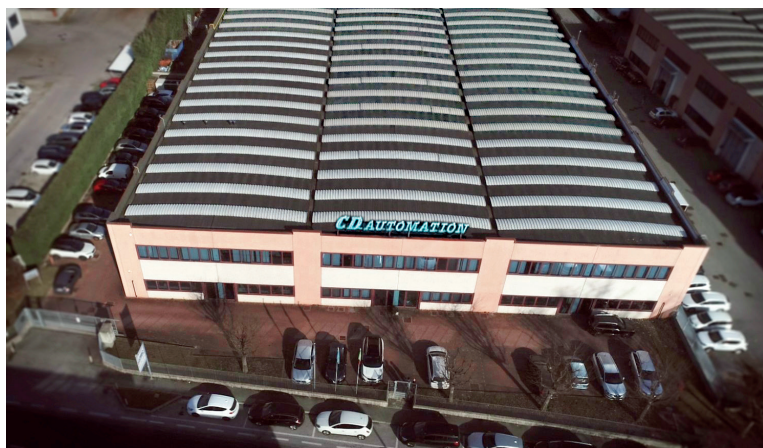
Through our academy, in CD Automation we carry out training activities to our clients through practical demonstrations and e-learning programs. We do operate under “non-disclosure agreement” when the manufacturer wants to protect the Intellectual Property of its models or patents.

So... your devices, although small and cheap, can become a critical component of high-value plant?

Without a doubt! Our units, despite small, are an integral part of the production system, because the temperature control in machines for plastic industry is one of the most critical components.

We are fully aware that if a thermoregulation zone doesn't work out the way it should, all the process will suffer the consequences and the produ-





ced material will not reflect the production characteristics.

This encourages us to ameliorate daily the quality of our products and services.

What kind of production support do you provide to customers?

The automatized management of thermoregulation is a very big topic and the typology of heating elements that are controlled through our instruments can be many and different from each other, from simple resistances to short-wave IR heaters. Every specific kind of heater requires specific control modalities to guarantee the optimization of the operation.

Thanks to the configurability and to the versatility of our units and to the know-how of our engineers we provide the most suitable solution for each exigence. I do believe that up to these days there is no heating application that CD Automation cannot manage through its static units available among its offered products.

At the end, why CD Automation is so special?

CD Automation has always had a spirit of cooperation which goes beyond the professional relationship.

For example, if possible, we try to involve the machines manufacturers or the dealers of our products in co-mar-

keting actions or plans.

CD Automation is a very open enterprise, which has always developed trust-based relations with other important automation-industry realities. The objective is to develop new products, joint-ventures, or private-labeling products. Through this solid network we operate in five continents where our products are commercialized thanks to important realities through highly qualified staff and a capillary territorial presence.

Can you describe CD Automation in three words?

Innovation, cooperation, internationalization.

www.cdautomation.com

