

Positron Technologies Case Study

REDUCING CHANGEOVER TIME

CHALLENGE

Waste of time during product changeover.

SOLUTION

Positron introduces Cogiscan RFID Smart Feeder to error-proof line set-up validation.

RESULT

Reduce "first-off" inspection time by half.

OVERVIEW

Positron Technologies is a leader in the electronics manufacturing services. Positron Technologies' growth and success objectives are based on maintaining a high standard of quality to ensure the delivery of superior products. Positron Technologies wanted to accelerate the change over time on their automated SMT lines while error-proofing their set-up validation procedures. To overcome this challenge, Positron Technologies decided to partner with Cogiscan to increase their ability to control their material. "Our customers require zero defect quality so we cannot afford to make any errors. Cogiscan was a logical choice because of their expertise and their unique RFID solutions for the electronics manufacturing industry" says Steve Séguin, Manufacturing Engineering Manager at Positron Technologies.

CHALLENGE

CM's like Positron Technologies need to optimize their assembly lines while ensuring zero defect quality. Positron Technologies set objectives to error-proof change-over procedures and decrease change-over time. Positron Technologies did a comprehensive examination of the possible impact of set-up errors and identified error-proof line set-up as being one of the key factors for success. Positron Technologies knew that their current methods and systems for controlling material had to be upgraded to manufacture better product faster. Moreover, they had one employee per shift counting remaining components in partial reels on a full-time basis and they wanted to eliminate the time wasted on tracking and counting components on the entire factory floor.

SOLUTION

Positron Technologies relies on Cogiscan RFID Smart Feeders and Line Set-up Control software to validate component and feeder set-up for their Fuji placement machines: "We use the Cogiscan system to manufacture zero defect quality product. It eliminates human errors while reducing the changeover time. This can be achieved because the Cogiscan system provides clear and easy to follow instructions to our operators about where to get the right component and where to place it" says Steve. Moreover, Cogiscan provides Positron Technologies with Inventory Tracking and machine communication to enable automatic and real-time visibility of exact location and count of remaining components in reels, which eliminates the need to count them manually.



Cogiscan

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BENEFITS

Reduce changeover time by half

After every product changeover, a first article inspection is performed on the first board coming out of the assembly line, to make sure that machines and processes are set-up correctly. Before implementing the Cogiscan system, this detailed inspection was very time-consuming. The line would sit idle until the inspection was completed, to avoid potential rework if a problem was found. Positron Technologies wanted to reduce the time to perform this operation. "We have reduced our "first article" inspection time by half" affirms Steve.

Fast ROI

Positron Technologies performs about 15-20 changeovers per week. The Return On Investment was about 4 months so it was easy to justify the investment.

Reduce costs

Since the ROI was so straightforward, Positron Technologies did not feel it was necessary to calculate other savings related to error proofing. However, Positron Technologies is aware and extremely happy of their new ability to produce zero defect products and get real-time inventory. "Although rare, setup errors can be very costly. Eliminating these potential errors adds to the savings. Moreover, the Cogiscan system also eliminates the need to manually count partial reels which is a significant labor saving" adds Steve.

CONCLUSION

The Cogiscan system is a very valuable tool for Positron Technologies. Customers visiting the factory are very impressed with the Cogiscan system in terms of the error-proofing and quality assurance that it brings. Steve said that this system always makes a positive impression on visitors and it can help Positron Technologies win new business in the highly competitive electronic manufacturing services market. Positron Technologies is very happy with the fact that the solution was deployed quickly and was easily integrated with their existing systems.



*The right material at the right place
at the right time.*



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