Q & A

Incorporating real time production displays to optimise manufacturing productivity

1. **What industries are using real time production displays?** The automotive industry has been deploying 1st generation Andon-board technology for the last 10-15 years. More recent adoption (3-5 years) is occurring within the beverage and bottling, manufacturing and fabrication, and aerospace industries. Clearly, connectivity standards and deployment of HMIs are accelerating the routine use of real time production displays (RTPD).

2. **We already monitor and post production data, how will real time displays help us be more productive?** For those businesses utilising RTPDs, they report the ability to more quickly recognise and avert production delaying events RTPDs have also been reported to encourage workforce support and involvement in company wide productivity initiatives.

3. **We have evaluated CRTs and flat panel display and due to character size limitations, they just won't work for us. Then what?** LED displays are the technology of choice for displaying large amounts of information at distances to many viewers. Virtually every professional sporting event utilises LED technology for replay events.

4. **How reliable is LED technology?** LED displays are both reliable (rated at 100,000 hours) and energy efficient (consuming 1/10th the energy utilised by comparable incandescent displays).

5. **What types of production information can I display?** Any information that can be made electronically available, i.e. workforce, production or asset data, can be displayed and distinguished by character size, colour and location, on the display or in some cases, audible cues.

6. **How does the information get to the display?** A wide range of connectivity solutions exist, as simple as an operator activated switch linked to a PC, to an HMI posting multiple work cell data via OPC, ODBC, SQL or DDE.

7. **What if we want to display graphs or web pages or maybe someday safety videos?** For these applications we offer the AlphaVision PC (AVPC) full matrix display. Since the AVPC utilised embedded PC technology, when connected to a TCIP/IP network, the AVPC display can replicate any networked, workstation view, including video feeds*. (AVPC is tri-coloured with a resolution of .3" or 7.62mm)

8. **What if I install a display today and my information needs change…then what?** A basic tenet of any productivity improvement initiative is that 'information needs' will change as the organisation eliminates waste and becomes more efficient, hence the value of LED production displays. This asset can change and accommodate virtually any 'information needs' simply requiring the new data to be displayed.

9. **How have other businesses justified the capital expense of adding real time production displays?** Depending on the asset and cost of production downtime, businesses have reported return on investment (ROI) as rapidly as a few hours to 4-5 months. However, in most cases and ROI of less than 12 months is usually achievable.

10. **If we were interested in RTPDs, how would we get started?** Call Adaptive Components, the leaders in real time LED production displays @ 03 9553 0922.

www.adaptivecomponents.com.au

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