

ENGEL and Koch extend the use of OPC UA on dosing units and mixers

More convenient dosing and mixing

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ENGEL AUSTRIA and Werner Koch Maschinentechnik have set the next milestones en route to OPC UA-based communication across the board in injection moulding. The injection moulding machine manufacturer and the peripheral equipment manufacturer have jointly developed an OPC UA interface for the integration of machines for mixing and dosing thermoplastic materials on injection moulding machines.

With immediate effect, dosing and mixing units by Koch can be integrated with the CC300 control unit of the ENGEL injection moulding machines via OPC UA and operated via the control panel on the machines. With its service-oriented, platform-independent and freely scalable structure, OPC UA offers both great flexibility and a high degree of data security. The communications model is increasingly asserting itself as a standard in the injection moulding industry.

Reducing the risk of errors

Today, the mixing ratio of the base material, additives and master batches are still set manually in many applications. To do this, a separate control unit is typically required on the injection moulding machine. The integration of dosing and mixing units with the machine control unit offers the advantage of being able to directly transfer the parts dataset, and with it the recipe, directly to the dosing unit on mounting the mould in order to automatically configure the mixing ratio. The dosing process is centrally controlled via the machine display, removing the need for the additional control unit. Alerts from the dosing and mixing unit are also output via the CC300 machine panel. As result, dosing becomes a more convenient experience for

production employees, and the risk of input errors is reduced. Storing process data together also makes the production batch easier to trace.

The OPC UA network is growing

ENGEL injection moulding machines can currently use OPC UA to talk to a large range of peripheral devices. They include temperature control units, hot runners and LSR dosing systems, for which EUROMAP recommendations also exist. Dosing and mixing units for thermoplastics have now been added. Standardised interfaces considerably simplify communication with the production cell independently of the manufacturer. This is why ENGEL is joining forces with other companies in the plastics industry to strongly promote standardisation.



Injection moulding production talks OPC UA. ENGEL and Koch enable the integration of dosing and mixing units with the injection moulding machine control unit via OPC UA.

Picture: ENGEL

ENGEL AUSTRIA GmbH

ENGEL is one of the global leaders in the manufacture of plastics processing machines. Today, the ENGEL Group offers a full range of technology modules for plastics processing as a single source supplier: injection moulding machines for thermoplastics and elastomers together with automation, with individual components also being competitive and successful in the market. With nine production plants in Europe, North America and Asia (China and Korea), and subsidiaries and representatives in more than 85 countries, ENGEL offers its customers the excellent global support they need to compete and succeed with new technologies and leading-edge production systems.

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