



Breaking News on Industrial Baking & Snacks

Aptean's 'Factory suite' streamlines snack food factory floor operations

By Gill Hyslop+, 09-Aug-2017

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Aptean has developed the Factory Manufacturing Execution System (MES) suite of wireless automation programs for the food and beverage industry to follow and improve shop floor activity in real time and with low disruption.

The Alpharetta, Georgia-headquartered software provider can implement the Factory suite in less than six weeks and purports that users can typically see improvements within 12 weeks of implementation.

The company produces more than 40 software options for various industries, but focused on its Factory suite portfolio at Snackex, held in Vienna, Austria, in June.

Paperless environment

James Wood, director of Factory & Activplant Product Lines, Aptean, told BakeryandSnacks:

"Essentially, Factory MES does away with the paperwork that often bogs down an operation, and provides instant information and shop floor visibility to operators so they can make adjustments in real time," he said.

"There are four core areas that factory personnel need – including visibility into what's happening on the production floor; immediate information; the ability to hold people accountable for what they're doing on the shop floor; and consistency of information," added Wood.

Recipe management

Factory MES' modules address all these and provides operators with real time management information, paperless operations, a track-and-trace Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) product called Ross, and an Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) product called TabWare.

Wood explained that Ross is equipped to handle various stages of process manufacturing, along with complex recipes that might mean handling recycling, by-products, co-products and waste; control sales orders, production planning and full traceability.

TabWare helps maximize asset performance, increase equipment uptime and reduce maintenance and operation costs.

Aptean also provides a full 'Process Manufacturing Suite' comprising Factory MES, Ross ERP, Pivotal Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Aptean Analytics.

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