ALPMA Connect

More than just an IoT platform

"ALPMA Connect is to be expanded to become the central point of contact between us and our customers"

Michael Müller, CEO ALPMA France

At interpack 2023, ALPMA presented its IoT platform ALPMA Connect, a platform to support users of cheese-making equipment. The concept is designed to be much more comprehensive than a mere web-based solution and has already been implemented in France for two years. In addition, the platform is being used by selected customers in the rest of Europe.

Michael Müller, Managing Director of ALPMA France, explains that ALPMA Connect is to be expanded to become the central point of contact between ALPMA and its customers. New machines already include the basic version of Connect; older machines can be retrofitted depending on the electronics installed. All service and spare parts processes, including video and chat functions, a dashboard overview of core functions and machine performance are already implemented in the basic variant. The main advantages are reduced waiting times and parts are visualised via 3D. In addition, the platform enables the evaluation of machine data without the need for additional solutions.

Higher productivity

For customers, ALPMA Connect offers much more: For example, ALPMA ECO CLEAN analyses the cleaning of the machines. Operators are informed about optimisation possibilities, e.g. that one of the various cleaning phases can be shortened in order to save resources. On the other hand, they are also warned if a cleaning process has been carried out incorrectly.

OPTIheight and OPTIview provide the production staff on site with information on how to optimally adjust the machines to each type of cheese to be processed. Overall, this increases productivity and packaging accuracy and reduces give-away.

Müller emphasises that ALPMA does not interfere with the customer's processes. There, the operators always have the final say, but they are supported in their decisions by ALPMA Connect by playing appropriate messages directly to the HMI.

Expert knowledge

The algorithms behind ALPMA Connect are developed by the company's own industry experts. The data analysis is then carried out by a service provider based on ALPMA's specifications so that relevant and, above all, correct statements can be made in the end. Customer-specific databases are built up using the data stored and processed in a cloud. At the end of all these processes, there is always an increase in productivity, which of course goes hand in hand with sustainability.

ALPMA now wants to extend its Connect concept to the entire delivery spectrum, i.e. to the plants for cheese production and refinement as well as for the process-technical plants for membrane filtration.

WATER		CAUSTIC	
Drinking water	**Rinsing water**	**Concentration**	**Temperature**
285.14 m³	206.91 m³	7.78	60.24
1 %	4 %	0.24	0.52

ACID		POTENTIAL SAVINGS PER YEAR	
Concentration	**Temperature**	**Water**	**Duration**
54.17	70.11	787 m³	32:56:23
-0.41	0.18	787 m³	32:56:23

CIPS				
Count	**Total duration**	**Compliance**	**Performance**	**Overload**
72	38:16:50	13 %	49 %	22.85 %
-6	2:31:00	1 %	6 %	1.80 %

Circuits	**Equipments**
3	3
0	0