

Extrusion processor resolves critical measurement failure with Oden

Problem

The manufacturer encountered problems monitoring the precise diameter of an extruding wire and could not identify the root cause. If a parameter was not set up correctly or an operator did not monitor the read-out, the result would be substandard, off-specification product and customers would receive inferior quality materials.

Customer satisfaction would plummet and many would look around for an alternative supplier if the problem was not addressed. The reruns would also prove costly, further impacting revenues.

Solution

The manufacturer had several hundred thousand dollars-worth of inline measurement to monitor the diameter of an extruded wire. However, the manufacturer only had access to real-time data or short-term historical information directly at the unit, so the company turned to Oden.

Oden checks when quality issues occur and identifies common causes. In this case, Oden's technology sent emails to the manufacturer daily summarizing the performance of the diameter against specification for every product run.

- Using Oden, the manufacturer was able to quarantine a product run and cut out the bad segments prior to shipping
- The manufacturer identified the root cause using the complete set of process data available in the Oden Platform, preventing future occurrence. The expected shrink factor was incorrect, meaning that when the material was hot it shrank more than anticipated
- Process engineers recalculated shrink factors and updated specification accordingly, eliminating the root cause

Improvement

Having solved this challenge with Oden, the manufacturer has continued to identify ways to further improve their quality control processes, as well as quickly identify and correct issues that were previously difficult to find.

5% reduction in annual material costs

90% improvement in time to resolution

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