

LAFAYETTE TEXTILES BREATHES EASIER THANKS TO YASKAWA

Reliability of Drives and Servos Enhance Their Productivity

“Yaskawa has improved my quality of life” said Enrique in a recent conversation. Enrique Gutierrez is head of electrical and electronic engineering and maintenance at Telas Lafayette, in Bogota, Colombia.

Telas Lafayette is a major vertical manufacturer of textile products including a broad product line ranging from road underlayment material to high-end fashion fabrics. Lafayette is a substantial company with some 1,500 people working throughout the 80,000 square meter facility.

Lafayette first began using Yaskawa AC drives 16 years ago. Over time, Mr. Gutierrez and his staff have replaced virtually all the drives within the plant with Yaskawa quality products and mentions that Yaskawa will continue to be used on any new machinery purchased by Lafayette in the future. “We have also electrified other portions of machines as well and even replaced some hydraulic and pneumatic systems with Yaskawa drives and servos.”



Figure 1: Old mechanical adjustable speed and power transmission components removed from a machine currently being retrofitted at Lafayette Textiles in Bogota, Colombia. These components will be replaced with 9 Yaskawa inverters in a common bus configuration with Electronic LineShaft (ELS) software. Instant gain in uptime, performance and energy savings.

It proved to be a win-win situation for all, as the impact was immediate and the difference was overwhelming. As the Yaskawa drive population at Lafayette increased, the night and weekend calls to Mr. Gutierrez's home have decreased allowing him to breathe easier and enjoy life again. “We still get some calls, of course,” said Enrique, “but few of them are drive related. The number of after-hours calls has been reduced so much that I can truly say that Yaskawa has improved my quality of life.”

Case Study



Figure 2: Over the years, the new Yaskawa drives and servos were safely mounted and installed on the various machines throughout the plant. Since switching over, the reliability of the Yaskawa products has made a huge difference in Lafayette's productivity.

Lafayette has over 60 years of experience in the textile industry, as they first began operation in 1942. Lafayette has been manufacturing quality products for over 20 countries across Central and South America as well as Europe. On the same note, Yaskawa Electric has been around since 1915 including expanding to the Americas in 1967 to become a globally recognized leader in manufacturing Mechatronic products such as AC drives and servo motors.



Figure 3: This is just one of the many large machines that uses Yaskawa products to manufacture various textile materials. Because of Yaskawa's reliability, these machines are able to stay running longer, therefore producing more.

Case Study

The end result of Lafayette making the switch to Yaskawa products was that they were able to enjoy an increased level of reliability and productivity. With that came more business, bigger profits and less downtime.

In the past, breakdowns occurred on a regular basis taking a toll on everyone and everything involved. This downtime meant more time, money and work to get the machines up and running again at full speed. Not so is the case with Yaskawa, as the products are built with ruggedness to handle even the toughest and most strenuous circumstances over long stretches of time.



Figure 4: Enrique Gutierrez, head of electrical and electronic engineering and maintenance, has experienced the difference. He is all smiles after making the switch to Yaskawa products, as it has made his life easier due to minimal breakdowns and less maintenance allowing him to enjoy life more.

To most the change shouldn't come as a surprise that Lafayette and Yaskawa were a perfect fit. Because the two companies have many similarities in the way they do business, leading them both to success in the process. They dedicate themselves to making only the most superior products and are committed to offering the best in customer service.

A customer's needs, wants and demands are Lafayette's main focus. In fact, their corporate vision is to fully satisfy the customer regarding quality, service, innovation and added value. The way that they are able to accomplish this is through their commitment, experience and expertise along with the help of Yaskawa products.

Yaskawa's impact is quite visible on paper, as Lafayette now produces close to \$50 million annually in sales. About 30 percent of their products are exported including 15 percent directly by Lafayette themselves and another 15 percent through garment manufacturers within Colombia. Although Lafayette doesn't currently distribute their products within the North American market, they hope to soon through the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA). This would be a huge leap in sales for them, as North America is one of the biggest and wealthiest markets around and because Yaskawa has a big presence in the States.

Two other key areas that have been pivotal in Lafayette's success include a strong work ethic amongst their employees and the fact that they supply such a wide variety of quality products. The workforce takes pride in helping out with the production in making products from polyester fabrics including sportswear, clothing, industrial goods and home furnishings for men, women and children as well as graphics and Geosynthetics. Because Lafayette is a vertically-integrated company, from thread spinning, weaving, dyeing, printing and special finishing, they are able to create high-quality polyester fabrics.

So teaming up with Yaskawa proved to be a winning formula for Lafayette, as it allowed them to increase their leadership within the textile industry. The reliability of Yaskawa drives and servos within their machinery has also increased Lafayette's product options. All in all, the introduction of Yaskawa products has meant decreased downtime, improvements in production and products and decreased overtime.

More details concerning Lafayette Textiles can be attained by going to www.telaslafayette.com. For more information about Yaskawa drives, servo motors or other products, visit their Web site www.yaskawa.com or call (800) YASKAWA.