



Hello,

November 2008

As another season is coming to an end, this is just a quick note to let you know we are all still alive; however, like everyone else in the Woods Products industry, we have experienced a dramatic slow down in our workload. As a result, we are getting caught up on the little things you don't have time to do when you are busy, continuing to develop new products, and looking at other opportunities in our industry as well as projects to do in other industries to diversify our business.

Lumber and Panel Board Labeling Update

We have continued to refine our Labeling products to print grades, LOGOS, barcodes, etc. onto applied labels or directly onto wood products. The two photos below show the current rubber stamp technology compared to the Inkjet system for a feasibility study we are doing with West Fraser and CanPly. In our office, we have system setup for demonstration purposes. What differentiates our system from the others is that it is PLC based and can print clearly at over 240 lugs per minute for lumber and up to 100 inches per second for panel board products.



Rubber Stamp Technology - currently, printed 4-inches high to make images readable



Inkjet Technology - printed 2-inches high to show excellent readability of the images in a smaller size. The samples in lower photo were printed with our test jig. For testing, it is far more efficient to print on a paper roll, and later print on a small sample of wood to demonstrate the actual print quality. Also notice that we have removed the **rider bars** on the graphics printed with the Inkjets as they are not required and will use less of the ink supply. The wood sample on the right has a rougher texture, but even the fine print (1/16") is very readable.

We are also doing a feasibility study for Gorman Bros. and COFI to determine if printing on the ends of their wood products meet their marketing and production requirements. In the following photo, the board on the left is printed at 150 DPI and the board on the right is printed at 300 DPI. The higher resolution can be printed at up to 50 surface inches per second, whereas the lower resolution can be printed at up to 100 surface inches per second. In the real world, the latter translates into 330 lugs per minute with an 18-inch lug space, or at 165 LPM at the higher resolution.



InkJet Technology – company LOGO's printed ½-inch high on 1 x 3 lumber

Please note: Signode will be marketing these printing systems as well as providing installation assistance and 24/7 support; however, you may contact us directly or we can put you in contact with a Signode representative in your area.

Training

Frequently, we get requests to provide training related to your business. When we are busy doing projects it is hard to find the time and we often direct others to firms like Westburne who have technical people on staff for this purpose. However, the problem with training of this sort is that it is of a general nature and is not geared to your application. Currently, with the market downturn we do have very experienced personal who can offer site specific training to your staff.

PLC Program and System Optimization

Do you have a PLC program that has any of the following issues?

- The program listing is poorly documented or you cannot figure out how the program works
- There is old PLC code left over from previous updates that needs to be removed but you don't feel comfortable removing the unused code for fear that it will effect something else
- The logic is not written in an easy to understand manner
- All the logic is jammed into one subroutine, whereas separating it by area or function into several subroutines would make it much easier to troubleshoot
- Your control system needs fine tuning and you don't know where to start

We have very experienced programmers in our office that can help. Give us a call with the issue you are trying to solve and we would be pleased to offer some suggestions.

Further to the ***fine tuning*** mentioned above: Do you have any equipment in your plant you feel is not running at peak performance with problems such as the log gaps are too large, piece count is low, etc.? We have experienced programmers here at Pacificon who can help. Give us a call; we would be pleased to offer some suggestions in resolving your bottlenecks.

Closing Remarks

All of us in the wood products industries have felt the impact of the business slow down. The reduction of activity may present an opportunity to schedule those projects that will add to the efficiency of your operation when this market cycle ends. We are always available to meet your automation needs or to assist you in planning for your upgrades.

Even though the project summaries shown on our website do not highlight that we have specific experience in project management, the process industry, AutoCAD, research and development or prototyping we can most certainly offer these services to you as well.

For all of you that have not seen our refreshed website, we have had quite a bit of complementary feed back ... check us out at <http://www.pacificon.com/>. We have also added these Newsletters to our website for future reference. Please refer to previous issues for additional labeling information.

In any case, if you have time, please drop us a short note just to let us know how you are doing, and if our paths do not cross before the end of the year, have a safe Holiday Season.

Regards,

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