

case study



When a leading Mexican bakery chain wanted to cook up significant energy savings, they put Honeywell ControlLinks™ to the test. Grupo Bimbo, headquartered in Mexico City, is one of the world's leading food producers and is Latin America's undisputed leader in the baking industry. To produce its more than 5,000 products and generate its

more than \$4.6 billion in annual net sales, Grupo Bimbo has 73 hard-working plants, including 60 throughout Mexico and Latin America. Knowing that reducing energy costs in that many plants would add up to major savings, Grupo Bimbo worked with the DiCosa Company, a systems integrator, to install the Honeywell ControlLinks Fuel/Air Control System.

Honeywell

Rolling Out The Savings

While Grupo Bimbo wants its bread, pretzel, pastry and other dough to rise, they didn't want rising energy costs to eat up all the profits. Still, just as they don't offer a food product without significant testing and refining, they didn't want to make changes in all of the plants without assurance that the energy savings would be significant.

The ControLinks™ Test

To improve the energy efficiency of Grupo Bimbo's plants, the installation of a Honeywell ControLinks fuel/air burner control system was a natural choice. ControLinks puts an end to the inefficiencies of linkage systems by providing microprocessor-based fuel/air control. With ControLinks, the fuel/air ratio to a burner can be adjusted independently, resulting in reduced fuel consumption that typically pays for the ControLinks system within a year.

Hector Hernandez, Grupo Bimbo Director Of Energy Savings, selected the plant in Toluca, Mexico for the first ControLinks installation as a test of the potential energy savings. "Before making the decision to upgrade every plant, I thought it best to test out ControLinks in one plant. Working with Honeywell and DiCosa, we installed ControLinks and tested it for one full year. And, I'm happy to say, the energy savings were terrific."

Results

Following the installation of ControLinks at the Toluca plant, energy usage was monitored and compared to usage and costs from past years. "It was very clear that Honeywell ControLinks was saving us a large amount of money," said Hernandez. "Our fuel efficiency improved 14 percent. That's a significant amount in any industry, but especially in ours, so we made the decision to add ControLinks to all 60 of our plants in Mexico and Latin America."

An added bonus for Grupo Bimbo was the speed with which the upgrades were made. By working with DiCosa and Honeywell for all of the upgrades, a turnkey solution was developed that lowered the time of delivery, helping Grupo Bimbo enjoy the energy savings in all of the plants quickly.

"The savings truly add up," said Hernandez. "When you think about the industry we're in, food services and especially bakery items — well, 14 percent savings at our many plants adds up to a lot of bread, cookies and tortillas."

Learn More

For more information about the Honeywell ControLinks Fuel Air Control System, contact your Honeywell representative, visit customer.honeywell.com or call 1-800-345-6770, ext. 423.

Automation and Control Solutions

In the U.S.:
Honeywell
1985 Douglas Drive North
Golden Valley, MN 55422-3992

In Canada:
Honeywell Limited
35 Dynamic Drive
Toronto, Ontario M1V 4Z9
www.honeywell.com

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