

Top quality mobile equipment for concentrated feed mixing uses Janz controllers



In the agricultural market, the demands of grain and food processing, and automatic feed control are very varied and extremely demanding. Exact dispensing of feed formulations is essential for the safe feeding of domestic animals.

Th. Buschhoff GmbH & Co. is a company that has over 125 years of tradition as being a world leader in the manufacture of stationary and mobile feed mixing plants.

Progressive customer requirements and the latest technology in food processing also require advanced control technology in this state-of-the-art mixing equipment.

In Paderborn-based Janz Automationssysteme AG, Buschhoff found not only a competent, well-known manufacturer of control systems, but also a company with product sustainability and expertise. At the recent Hannover agricultural machinery trade fair Agritechnica 2009, Buschhoff presented TOURMIX (TWINPOWER), its newest mobile feed mixing plant.

TOURMIX features a Janz-sourced computer system communicating with two displays installed in the vehicle. One 12.1" touch-screen display is installed in the cab close to the driver to allow easy parameter setting at customer sites. From here, all control, service, and maintenance work can be performed for the entire mixer. This information is also registered at the rear of the truck on an additional display, which makes the equipment extremely user-friendly.

Great care was taken in selecting and mounting the correct display for readability even in bright sunlight. This required the surface of the display to be specially treated with an anti-reflective coating. CoDeSys – a Soft PLC programming tool (IEC 61131-3) – was selected as the most convenient user interface, since this has proven ideal in similar applications.

A special feature is the presentation of two different display contents on the two monitors. This configuration was made possible by close cooperation with Buschhoff staff. During the development process, the basic framework for both the controller unit as well as for the displays was determined jointly with the customer's development team.

There were no major problems in terms of technical feasibility. However, the creation of the custom-housed device was significant, since this system had to be designed with industrial components with long-term availability, and also made consistent across all the various mixing plants.

In addition, it had to fit into limited mounting space in the cab. Great emphasis was also taken in the development of the corporate design to create enterprise-wide product recognition by customers.

In addition to this specific application, controllers and displays from Janz can of course be used in other applications in mechanical engineering, production or building automation.

Janz Automationssysteme AG products make a wise investment choice due to: flexible equipment options, an almost infinite variety of customized solutions, centralized expertise in both hardware and software development, the possibility to choose from various operating systems and software tools, etc.

We would like to thank Th Buschhoff GmbH & Co. with assisting in the preparation of this text - and for their confidence in our products!