

Sussex IM

📍Sussex, WI



Supercell Assembly Machine

About Sussex IM

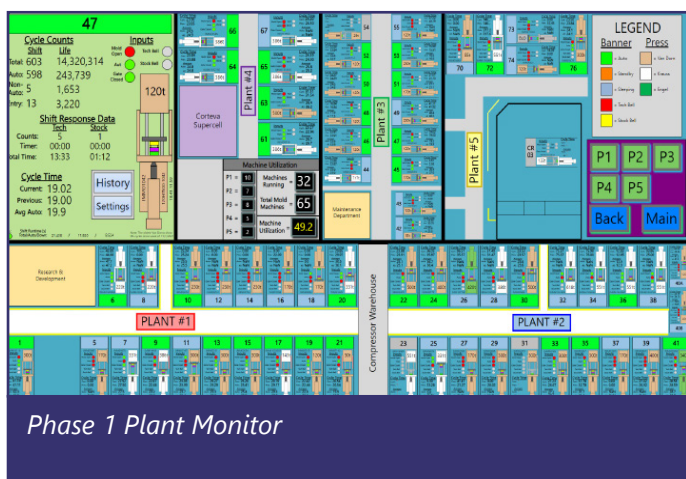
Sussex IM, Inc. (SIM) is a leading custom injection molding company that has been providing essential supply services to some of the world's biggest brands for over four decades. With a focus on mid to high-volume production, the company has built a reputation for turnkey success, providing customers with innovative resources for automated assemblies, molding, and decorating.

Project Summary

To improve their manufacturing processes and stay ahead of their competitors, Sussex IM selected ICONICS automation software. SIM exclusively uses Mitsubishi Electric PLCs, and since ICONICS is a group company of Mitsubishi Electric, ICONICS was the logical choice for the automation software. Initially in 2002, the company started using ICONICS GENESIS32™ as a data monitoring tool to observe

all the machines in operation and display metrics such as cycle time and cycle count. They also used the software to log every shift's machine alarms and other statistics. However, the system began to show its age, and SIM knew they needed a more advanced system. The company therefore upgraded to ICONICS GENESIS64™.

The upgraded system was implemented in four phases, allowing approximately two months for each phase. The first phase was to replace the bell system, which included adding numbered lights in the plants that were tied to switches, so the operators could call for stock handlers or technicians. The second phase was to add large TVs throughout the plants that would display in detail which machines needed attention. The third phase was to log the bells and attach corresponding metrics to variance reports to help identify where the technicians should focus their continuous improvement efforts. The final phase was asset management.



Assets	Date	Name	Comments
1	11/11/2014	11/11/2014	11/11/2014
2	11/11/2014	11/11/2014	11/11/2014
3	11/11/2014	11/11/2014	11/11/2014
4	11/11/2014	11/11/2014	11/11/2014
5	11/11/2014	11/11/2014	11/11/2014
6	11/11/2014	11/11/2014	11/11/2014
7	11/11/2014	11/11/2014	11/11/2014
8	11/11/2014	11/11/2014	11/11/2014
9	11/11/2014	11/11/2014	11/11/2014
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48	11/11/2014	11/11/2014	11/11/2014
49	11/11/2014	11/11/2014	11/11/2014
50	11/11/2014	11/11/2014	11/11/2014

Fork Lift Maintenance Tracker

ICONICS Software Deployed

- **GENESIS64™** web-based real-time HMI/SCADA suite with **WebHMI™**
- **AsseWorX™**
- **AlarmWorX™64** Multimedia OPC alarm

Realized Benefits

According to Sussex IM, one of the main benefits of using ICONICS software was the improvement of response time and accuracy. Before installing ICONICS software, there were many unanswered questions about when an alarm would sound on a machine. With ICONICS software, the technician team knows all critical alarm information upfront and can therefore more efficiently pinpoint the issue and come equipped with the resources necessary to address it. More specifically, they know which tools/equipment are needed to repair the issue on first visit rather than having to check the issue, diagnose it, and then return for the fix. This time savings is crucial, and the team can now more effectively allocate the right resources at the right time.

Sussex IM also reported increased precision and advanced graphics capability with ICONICS software. Its operational team has an “eye on the manufacturing and production floor” with visibility into essential operational aspects and better control and monitoring, which is in direct alignment with the company’s continuous improvement initiatives. Another benefit of ICONICS software is the capability to log all problems and metrics of each issue providing essential information about which jobs and products require the team’s time and attention. This information also allows the team to make data-driven decisions about production that ensure profitability while also providing insight into asset health and performance. Moreover, since ICONICS software captures and logs all production data, human errors in configuring the data into Excel spreadsheets have been eliminated.

ICONICS software has become a powerful tool for Sussex IM, enabling the company to do more than it ever could before. The utilization of ICONICS creates operational and work efficiencies that result in increased savings and profitability. Currently, ICONICS is integrated into the everyday operations at the company’s manufacturing

headquarters. As the second Sussex IM facility expands in size and production, the team will also deploy the software at that location. To further support the Sussex IM maintenance department, an ICONICS asset manager is also being deployed to help the team report the status of the company’s indoor vehicles and assist maintenance in communicating and managing repairs.

Conclusion

Sussex IM’s partnership with ICONICS has allowed them to improve their manufacturing processes, reduce human error, and make data-driven decisions. With its expanding operations, the upgraded ICONICS system has given Sussex IM a competitive advantage and has become a showpiece for the company. The ease of use and development possibilities of the system have given Sussex IM’s manufacturing engineer, Nick Rohrig, the opportunity to have fun developing the system. The company views ICONICS as a capability tool that allows them to increase profitability and work efficiencies.

“ICONICS has been one of the most powerful tools we have acquired to set us apart from other manufacturers. It has become a showpiece here, but the best part is all the fun I get to have developing the system. ICONICS’ ease of use makes all that possible.”

Nick Rohrig

Manufacturing Engineer & Engineer responsible for Sussex IM’s ICONICS system

Fun Fact

Working at Sussex IM is a family affair for Nick. His parents both met and married while working at Sussex IM almost 35 years ago, and his sister also works for the company. While in high school, Nick started working on the production floor at Sussex and eventually moved into an engineering role as he completed college.