

Success Story

Increasing productivity with innovations!

PWA – Personal Wiring Assistant – successful in the field.

The W. Althaus AG, located in Aarwangen, Switzerland, offers solutions for industrial applications, bringing along experiences from more than forty years. The company considers themselves as a global service provider for consulting, development, switchboard construction, supply, assembly, setup and training in industrial automation business.

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Walter Althaus makes priority to systematic optimization and integrated workflows. The production is fully automated. The switchboard production is well prepared for the competition, no matter if a prototype, a unique piece or a series is manufactured.

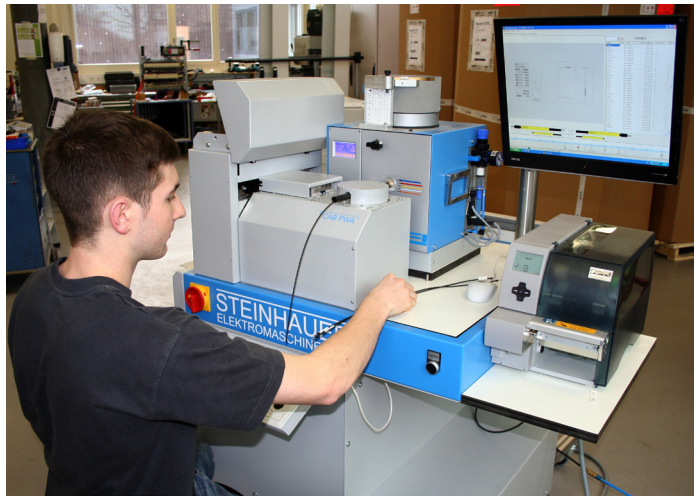


Each switchboard cabinet, each mounting plate will be machined in a highly-productive metal-working center of machines. Mounting rails and cable ducts are fitted on computer-aided benches. The cable assembly is also automated. Single conductors are fitted to length, printed and the ends are finished.

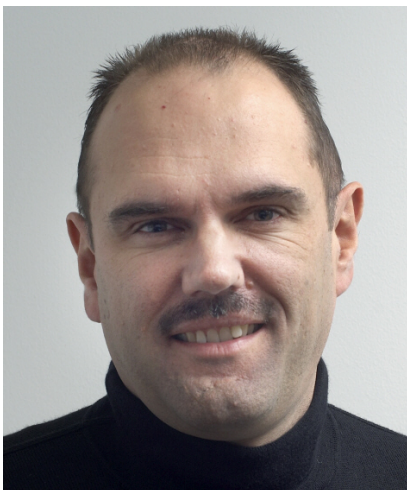
The close interaction of planning department and production is of extreme importance. After the electro-technical documentation with circuit diagram and cabinet layout is completed, a routing-module calculates the wire length. Approved interfaces in the engineering-software guarantee smooth data-exchange to any manufacturing machine.

At the end of the year 2010 a new path of switchboard wiring was begun. By the use of a STEINHAUER eCAB PWA, the switchboard production could be enhanced in areas, where the performance was nonsatisfying so far.

A PWA – *Personal Wiring Assistant* – is not located central in the workshop, but directly at the workplace of the craftsman. The production data are loaded from the CAE-department by means of an interface.



The machine display is a matter of particular interest: The way the wire runs is shown, like calculated by the routing software. The wiring of a switchboard cabinet is done, without permanent views into the circuit diagram or careful ticking off a list of wires.



At the same time PWA optimizes the printing on labels. The printer system is integrated into the machine and delivers just the labels belonging to the ejected wire. The annoying search for the matching marking ceases to exist.

The ferrules are applied to the wires by a top quality stripper-crimper. In comparison with manual work, the processing of the wire ends is of constant quality.

Walter Althaus remarks: „The STEINHAUER eCAB PWA brings flexibility and scalability into the automation of our workflow. We get to know a machine manufacturer ready to listen to our proposals and open to our requests. The PWA has really convinced us in a short period of time!“

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