

Hinz Automation Inc. Mitchell's Gourmet Foods

The Client:

Mitchell's Gourmet Foods (formerly Intercontinental Packers) is one of Canada's larger value-added processor of pork and pork products. The company markets and sells its products under the Mitchell's Gourmet Foods

and Olympic labels, as well as various private labels, to more than 8,000 wholesale and retail customers across Canada and in many American states.

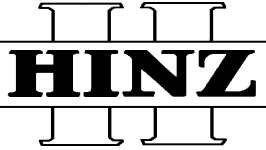
The Requirement:

Mitchell's Gourmet Foods was searching for a replacement system for their aging G.E. Series 6 PLC and Nematron package that controlled their Beef Chill area. The Nematron HMI was failing regularly and could not be depended on, while the Series 6 PLC has become increasingly difficult to get replacement parts for. The decision was made to replace the Series 6 with an Allen-Bradley SLC remote rack, which would be similar to other SLC units in use in other areas of the plant. An Allen-Bradley Panelview 600 color touchscreen was chosen to replace the Nematron unit, providing much greater control capability, cleaner and neater graphics, as well as improving reliability.

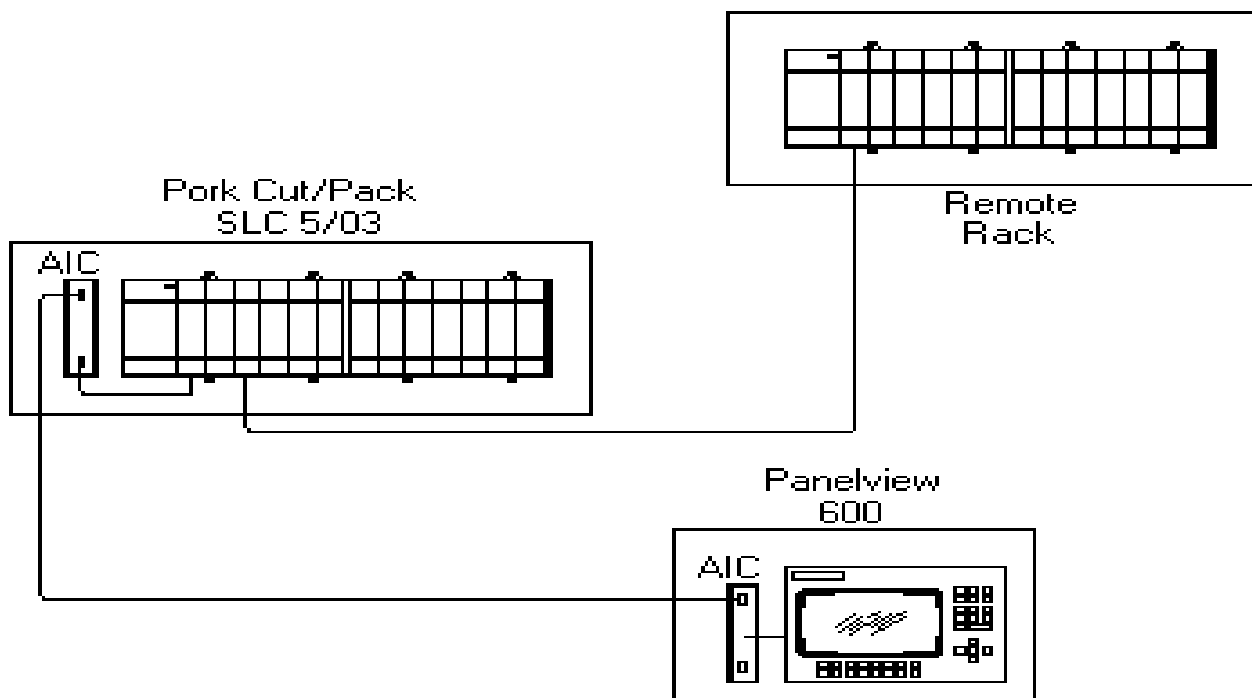
The Design Solution:

The I/O from the Series 6 PLC was examined to determine what was actually in use, and what could be demolished. Based on this evaluation, the program was adapted to run in the SLC PLC. Rather than installing a new SLC 5/03 processor, it was decided to run the new 13 slot rack as a remote I/O rack off of the existing Pork Cut/Pack Processor. The required programming was patched into the existing Pork Cut/Pack program, and a Remote I/O scanner module was added into the Pork Cut/Pack chassis to communicate with the new rack. Some improvements to the adapted Series 6 program were implemented to enhance control and monitoring of certain I/O, as well as provide proper interface and alarming to the new Panelview unit.

The new Panelview 600 application consisted of 12 screens and 32 alarms. The new screens were created to have similar screen control as the Nematron unit, but graphics and ease of control were improved considerably. Since this is only a fraction of the Panelview's capacity, plenty of room has been left for future expansion. It uses Data Highway 485 protocol to communicate with the Pork Cut/Pack PLC.



Beef Chill PLC and HMI Replacement



System Specifications:

- 1 – 13 slot SLC rack configured as Remote I/O.
- 1 Panelview 600 Color Touchscreen HMI
- 2 AIC Data Highway 485 Interface cards

For further information or to contact a Hinz Automation office near you, please check our Web site at

WWW.HINZ.COM