



B&D Industrial CASE STUDY

Client: FIAMM Waynesboro
B&D Division: Scale Systems

The customer called looking for a scale and ended up with an automated data collection solution.

FIAMM Waynesboro, located approximately 30 miles south of Augusta, Georgia, is the principal industrial battery manufacturing plant for **FIAMM America**. Recently constructed, the plant employs the latest industrial standby battery systems (developed in Italy) to produce FIAMM Monolite batteries for major telecom and Internet companies in North America. The plant is situated on 30 acres of land and has approximately 200,000 square feet of floor space. FIAMM will employ approximately 250 associates at this location and has plans to expand.

Situation Overview:

FIAMM held an internal planning meeting with Quality, Process, Maintenance and Production Managers from FIAMM North America, attended by a representative from FIAMM Italy and a European consulting company. The purpose of the meeting was to define a quality assurance weighing application for their battery manufacturing processes. The payback of such a system had been quantified by management.

FIAMM originally called looking for scales to solve the problem.

B&D Solution:

After careful audit and analysis, B&D Industrial's Scale Systems division determined that FIAMM really needed a combination of properly specified and applied scale electronics to *begin* to meet their goals. They needed technically suitable automated data collection hardware (scanners, touch screen PC's) to *continue* a path forward to their goals; and, finally, they needed help developing specifications, software and related technical services to complete the project.

Results:

A scale application became a true system. There are three process stations where batteries are to be scanned, weighed, and tolerance tested. Two of the stations will be manually operated and one will have a powered conveyor with scanners and photo-eyes for automatic weighing, identification, and tolerance testing. Battery sizes range from 11" x 4" up to 22" x 7" and weigh from 30 to 135 pounds each.

All three production stations will be communicating with one industrial PC featuring a 19" touch screen. Located on the production floor, each station will be collecting data and performing calculations based upon tolerances and captured weights for different stages of the battery production process. Operators will have both visual and audible alerts when batteries are outside the required weight and/or production specifications.

Scale Systems will be combining a customized version of our Windows-based *ScaleTrak™* software; Mettler-Toledo high resolution K Line platforms with Color display IND780 controllers featuring Task Expert software; Motorola/Symbol fixed position scanners; one Beijer Electronics 19" touch screen industrial PC ; and one Dorner SS Belt conveyor, SS Ball Transfer and SS Roller conveyor, as well as air-operated gates supplied by Production Systems, Inc.