

# start-it

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

## FOREST SERVICES

### Interstate Paper LLC

Riceboro, Ga.

[www.interstatepaper.com](http://www.interstatepaper.com)

The history behind Interstate Paper isn't as deep or as long as others in the industry, but it is one of how three corrugated manufacturers in the Northeast in the 1960s worked with political and business leaders in Georgia so that the three companies could have a captive supply of linerboard.

Today, Interstate Paper is an affiliate of Interstate Resources, Rosslyn, Va., and Interstate Resources, in turn, is an affiliate of the parent company Indevco, Lebanon, Ga. Through capital investment and plant innovation, Interstate Paper now produces 900 tons per day of linerboard, which is slightly more than 1% of the U. S. production.

The mill's original controls were pneumatic, replaced in 1990 by islands of automation consisting of batch supervisory DCS (distributed control system) over panelboard/single-loop controllers in the digester house, and panelboard/single-loop controllers alone in stock preparation and on the paper machine. These second-generation controls became unreliable, and many had fallen into disuse in favor of manual control. An automated DCS system was in order.

Interstate installed—from one end of the mill to the other—a single, digital process automation platform of advanced design that relies on a field-base architecture from Emerson Process Management, [www.emersonprocess.com](http://www.emersonprocess.com), Austin, Texas, and the help of its partners, Atlanta Solutions Center, a business unit of Emerson Process Management for the engineering process, EnTech Consultants, another business unit of Emerson Process Management for the process variability audit undertaken, and Control Southern, [www.controlsouthern.com](http://www.controlsouthern.com), Atlanta, Ga.

The benefits of the new system were almost imme-

diante. Cold starts, for example, now follow a single automated and interlocked sequence of permissives that boiled down operator best practices. Time has been reduced to 10 minutes from between 30 minutes and two hours. Training new hires in startup procedures is faster, a huge benefit considering many of Interstate's operators are nearing retirement.

The newer system also gives Interstate the ability to integrate the mill's five batch digesters into a single pulp supply system. Finished pulp is now highly consistent from digester to digester and batch to batch—less than 3% variation. Sheet breaks on the paper machine have been reduced

12%. H-factor can now be simply raised or lowered across the entire digester house to accommodate different wood types, wood moisture contents, and seasonal effects on raw material.

Other benefits derived from the new DCS include, lower steam consumption, higher quality pulp dilution consistency, shorter restart times for refiners, and effective control of acid addition.

START-IT T&B judges valued Interstate Paper's approach to an automated distributed control system that solved multiple problems.

*"I liked the company's approach to systematic analysis at process issues, identification of failures and associated KPIs (key performance indicators), and formulating an end-to-end improved process."*

—Joe Barkai, Manufacturing Insights

*"Through a comprehensive solution, Interstate Paper has deployed a solution that address multiple problems and yields benefits in more than just one area."*

—Dan Miklovic, Gartner

