

When technology protects investment

Paljassaare Kalatööstus AS, is part of the Vičiūnai Group, specialists in manufacturing surimi-, fish- and flour products. Vičiūnai's portfolio consists of more than 3,000 products, under the brand names VIČI, Esva, Columbus, and other trademarks. The company produces over 120,000 tonnes of food products annually, exporting over 85%.

Tools used / technology stack

Frontend: Vue.js 2.0
Database: MS SQL
Backend: Go, runnable as a service
Deployment: on-premise, automated
Logging: Sentry.io

Competencies & methods used

Used Wireshark to rewrite old BlackBox weight data polling software. Monitored Modbus TCP/IP traffic to understand the logic.

Integration with Evocon REST API.

Objective: Save resources, protect investments

A 15-year-old production-line weighing system stopped itself on a weekly basis, resulting in inaccuracy in products' unit weights and missing production line information. Since product weights data was of poor quality, it provided limited insight for post-production analysis. The weighing system did not integrate with any other systems, and two to three hours of human labor was needed on a daily basis to reconcile data. This caused delays in information availability, made data prone to errors, and was waste of human resources.

Modernization through re-engineering

The project began by Proekspert engineers paying onsite visits to the factory to observe the problem and its cause. Our objective: To protect the investment in the existing weighing system and to enable integration with the production line, without adding any new hardware. The Proekspert team protected the original investment by re-engineering the existing system so that it would run on new software.

To enhance the data, the team integrated OEE monitoring software Evocon via the API, which enabled the pairing of weight data with its relevant product. This information is now available in a web application that combines business logic and data. New data sources are easily added to the system. After the first development phase, Proekspert helped Paljassaare to integrate a brand new scale into its system.

Trusted data enables better decisions

The project accomplished its objective, which was to protect an investment and eliminate manual labor. The hardware investment, made more than 15 years ago, was protected by software re-engineering, and was then integrated with other production systems. Also, manual labor is no longer required for collecting, handling, or reconciling data. Additionally, this change enables production line work to be monitored, analyzed, and improvements implemented. A quality weight control system is important since, due to EU directive 76/211/EEC (the e-mark standard concerning pre-packaged goods), the client is required to undergo a yearly audit.

Today, better business decisions can be made on the basis of trusted data combined from a variety of sources and available in the management dashboard.

“With a project which started with the target to protect an old investment and production resources, we actually reached a new level of data quality. Today, we are able to make much better business decisions. We are thankful to Proekspert for approaching our issues with a creative mindset and wide skill set, thinking together with us, and executing technical solutions that enable us to run more efficient production.”

Jüri Mallene
Production Manager,
Paljassaare
Kalatööstus AS

