



# Littell International

## Designed for Success

### Results

- Fast, cost-effective control system development
- Decreased programming time
- Increased end user productivity
- Greater information accessibility
- High uptime with robust platform
- Machine-to-enterprise communications
- Customizable system for end users
- Multinational language capabilities

*"With its extensive capabilities and integrated platform, GE Fanuc's CIMPLICITY Machine Edition is a better solution for us and our customers."*

**Jeff Mazrimas**  
Chief Electrical Engineer  
Littell International

## Improving Its Mettle

Web-based software provides cost-effective solution to scroll sheeting OEM and its customers worldwide

From its humble beginnings in 1918, the Littell Machine Company has grown to the extent that the name is synonymous with "tinplate shear lines" throughout the world. A pioneer in this specialty market and the only manufacturer that provides both straight and scroll cutting capabilities within one machine, Littell's Scroll Sheeting Lines process coils of steel or aluminum for the can and metal decorating industries.

With the ability to produce cut sheets to an accuracy of  $\pm 0.005$  inches at speeds of up to 300 cuts per minute (5 per second) and to handle coils weighing up to 20 metric tons, these machines are designed to respond to the industry's demand for reliable, high quality, continuous production. And, with the recent installation of GE Fanuc's Web-based Machine Edition\* Software, Series 90-30™ PLCs, and VersaMax™ I/O, "Littell Lines" are now well equipped to provide end users with cost-effective, high-performance control and communications capabilities.

### Simplify development, save time

"We are always looking for ways to improve our machines," said Jeff Mazrimas, Chief Electrical Engineer at Littell. "We had been using another software solution for many years, but the product hadn't changed much. It didn't provide us with the tools we needed to

\* Part of Proficy Intelligent Production Solutions from GE Fanuc.

develop more highly functional programs quickly and cost-effectively, and it didn't allow us to offer new functionality to our customers."

Mazrimas and his team had used GE Fanuc PLCs and other GE products for several years, and they were very pleased with GE's product performance and service offerings. As a result, they replaced their old software with GE Fanuc's Machine Edition, a unified HMI, motion, and multitarget control solution that provides an integrated development environment with a common user interface and drag-and-drop editing.

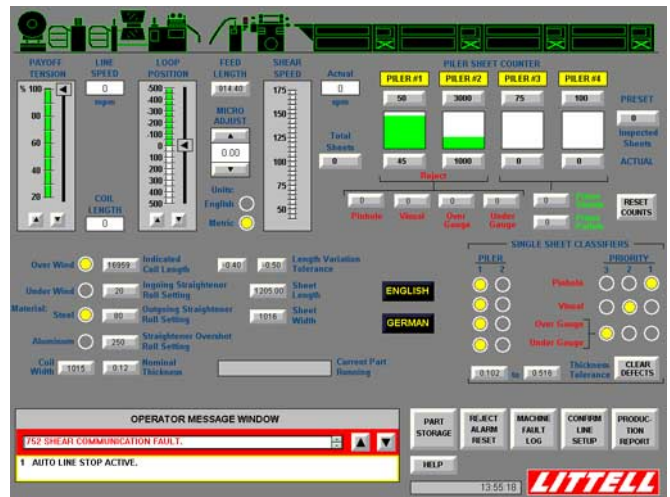
"The ability to develop HMI and PLC programming in a single package using common editing tools, database, and objects has greatly simplified the process and decreased our programming time," Mazrimas says.

Additionally, he points specifically to the ability to combine "tag" databases using the View (a machine-level HMI) and Logic Developer portions of the Machine Edition software that both reduced the number of graphic windows and scripts and offered a similar "touch and feel" for both programs. Mazrimas and his team easily added SQL features to store production result data, and leveraged the program's Web-based architecture by incorporating Web publishing capabilities that will save time and increase information accessibility for their customers.

**Speaking your language**

Mazrimas describes the software's ability to support several spoken/written languages as "an unexpected, but welcome surprise" and a significant enabling feature for their international customers. Text within the View program can be translated into another language and incorporated into a table that features English in one column and one of several languages in the other. Users can switch back and forth between the columns quickly and easily.

"In the U.S., we like to think that the whole world speaks English," Mazrimas says. "That's not true, and there's less room for errors caused by miscommunication if you can provide information in a user's native language."



Enabling communications not only with people who speak different languages but also at different levels of the customer's enterprise and among diverse devices was an important consideration in this implementation. A compact, economical, high-performance GE Fanuc Series 90-30 PLC controls the Littell Line via a Profibus network that communicates with the VersaMax distributed I/O and GE AF311 AC drives. By connecting a PC to the PLC with a TCP/IP Ethernet card, users can incorporate the scroll sheeting line into a plant floor control network or an enterprise business information network, greatly enhancing real-time decision-making capabilities and productivity.

GE Fanuc's services team delivered a complete turnkey solution, including: converting the existing software application to Machine Edition, on-site implementation, testing and debugging, and several days of training.

"We want to offer our customers a flexible system that can be customized to meet their needs," Mazrimas explains, "and this new Web-based control platform helps us do that cost-effectively and efficiently."

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**Additional Resources**

For more information, please visit the GE Fanuc web site at:

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

