



AUSTRALIA POST Sydney and Melbourne, Australia

Parcel Sortation System

System Components:

- Multiple workstations for opening and removing bulk mail and parcels from bags
- Primary inspection lines, where product is delivered by conveyor to X-Ray machines
- Plough diverters used to redirect suspect product onto a conveyor line leading to a secure secondary inspection area
- Secondary inspection area, comprising of two pallet loops

In May 2001 the Australian Government committed to 100% screening of incoming international mail for quarantine (AQIS) and customs (ACS) purposes by X-Ray, physical examination and canine inspection prior to its release to the domestic postal distribution network.

Australia Post (AP) required new materials handling (MH) facilities at both Sydney and Melbourne to be able to provide these screening services in an efficient and sustainable manner. In 2004 Glidepath successfully won the contract to supply the conveyor-based materials handling systems at both locations.

Postal product is somewhat different to baggage. This required some customisation of Glidepath's standard conveyor equipment. Gaps between conveyors and under ploughs had to be reduced sufficiently to ensure the thinnest of letters could be processed. Further, with the continuous proximity of AP staff to the conveyors—not something usually associated with baggage systems—all pinch points 4mm and over had to be eliminated or guarded.

Each of the seven lines has a dedicated control panel with PLC for running the line conveyors. A common GlideView SCADA display mounted on one of the panels enables operators in the field to monitor the status of all the lines, determine fault conditions and manually override equipment. A second SCADA station with equivalent facilities is located in the manager's office. SCADA also provides the usual reporting features such as alarm summaries, hours run and time spent in maintenance mode.

The PLC interfaces with the X-Ray machine to control the conveyors in response to the AQIS/ACS image status and inspector commands. The item leaves the X-Ray and stops on the inspection conveyor. If cleared by both operators it proceeds to despatch. If not, it is diverted to secondary inspection.



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