



**Service/Product Provider**

***Rockwell Automation***

6400 West Enterprise Drive  
Mequon, WI 53092

Business: Control Products & Solutions  
Joshua J. Olive  
Sr. Product Specialist  
Phone: 262-512-2095  
Email: [jjolive@ra.rockwell.com](mailto:jjolive@ra.rockwell.com)

**Industrial Partner**

***General Mills***

9000 Plymouth Ave. North  
Minneapolis, MN 55427

Business: Food Processing  
David Spryshak  
Facilities, Control, & IS Engineer  
Phone: 763-764-7091  
Email: [Dave.spryshak@genmills.com](mailto:Dave.spryshak@genmills.com)

**Rockwell Automation helps General Mills save \$2.6 million annually through a standardized energy management system for air handling units**

**Project Scope**

Rockwell Automation partnered with General Mills to develop a standardized energy management system (EMS) for controlling air handling units (AHU) and has installed the system at 14 General Mills facilities.

**Project Summary**

The project was to design an EMS for dramatically different AHUs. Rockwell Automation worked with General Mills to develop a new standardized EMS system that would seamlessly integrate with any type of AHU. The new system utilizes outdoor air versus air conditioning in autumn, winter, and spring to cool a plant, and also uses excess heat from the plant's equipment to heat buildings as needed.

- **Energy Savings**  
\$2.6 million (approximate annual energy cost savings)
- **Investment**  
\$6 million (approximate investment to generate the recorded savings)
- **Financial Return**  
1.5 to 3 year payback (depending on the facility)
- **Other Benefits**  
No additional training was required as General Mills is leveraging the same user-friendly Rockwell Automation control platform on its EMS as that used on their production operations. Each EMS system costs 60 percent less than the cost to develop a new control system for each AHU.

**Monitoring & Verifying Energy Savings**

The new control system includes the Human Machine Interface (HMI) and trending capability that was used to verify the savings. This system also provides information that allows operators and engineers to monitor the AHU's operation, address inefficiencies, and continuously improve and sustain energy savings.

**Distinguishing Value**

Rockwell Automation provided domain expertise in power and energy management. They were able to help General Mills build a successful business case by developing the tools to evaluate and optimize the system.