

## Buhler's Grain Milling Solution Relies on Softing's OPC Technology

**Buhler, the leading provider of grain milling solutions, standardized on Softing's industry-hardened S7/S5 OPC Server to provide reliable connectivity between Buhler's "WinCoS.r2" automation system and multiple S7-400 PLC's.**

Buhler is a global specialist in the field of plant design and construction and the related services for transforming renewable and synthetic raw materials into high-quality functional products and valuable substances. Buhler employs some 6,900 employees around the world and is headquartered in Switzerland.



Most people are not even aware of how many times a day they encounter products to which Buhler has contributed. Breakfast rolls in the morning? The ink on the newspaper? Perhaps a few noodles for lunch? That refreshing beer after work? Yes, a bit of Buhler is in all of these things – for Buhler is a technology group and global market leader in Food Processing, Chemical Process Engineering, and Die Casting.

If you buy bread, baked goods or breakfast cereals anywhere in the world, it is very likely that they will contain grain from a Buhler plant. One of the keys to Buhler's success was the development of WinCoS, an automation solution which combines the latest technologies with the company's extensive grain milling experience. Part of Buhler's strategy with WinCoS is to use tested, commercially available hardware and software components which offer optimized process technology functions and a high level of reliability:

The latest version of Buhler's automation system, WinCoS.r2, is based on standard components from Microsoft (operating system), Siemens (automation technology), and Softing (OPC communication). Starting with WinCoS.r2, Buhler's design team decided to standardize on OPC as the main communication protocol to the process peripherals. "OPC technology enables us to seamlessly integrate best-in-class automation equipment from various vendors" said Kurt Geiger, Manager of Buhler's Automation Standards Team. "We standardized on Softing's S7/S5 OPC Server to achieve OPC connectivity to our S7-400 PLCs. After evaluating numerous OPC solutions offered in the market, our communication experts chose **Softing's product** because of its **superior performance, outstanding reliability, and ease-of-use.**"

Buhler's grain milling automation systems are designed to **run around-the-clock 24/7**. Large installations utilize multiple high-end S7-400 PLC's that provide up-to **60,000 data points** that the OPC Server has to process simultaneously. Failure is not an option given the fact that Buhler's mills are handling 300,000,000 tons of wheat world-wide. "**Our decision to go with Softing turned out to be an excellent pick for Buhler,**" said Kurt Geiger of Buhler. "**Softing's flexibility in supporting our ever changing requirements helps us to continually improve our system and to stay ahead of our competition.**"

### Industry

- Food
- Grain Milling

### Task / Objective

- Reliable and efficient data communication

### Requirements

- Run around-the-clock 24/7
- Fast processing of up to 60,000 data points
- Flexible program changes during operation

### Solution

Softing S7/S5 OPC Server with integrated Web server

### Benefits

- Convenient data access
- Changes of configuration during operation
- Error free operation on 24/7 use
- Very high transfer rate

### Market segments

- Processing grain to bread, pastry and breakfast cereals