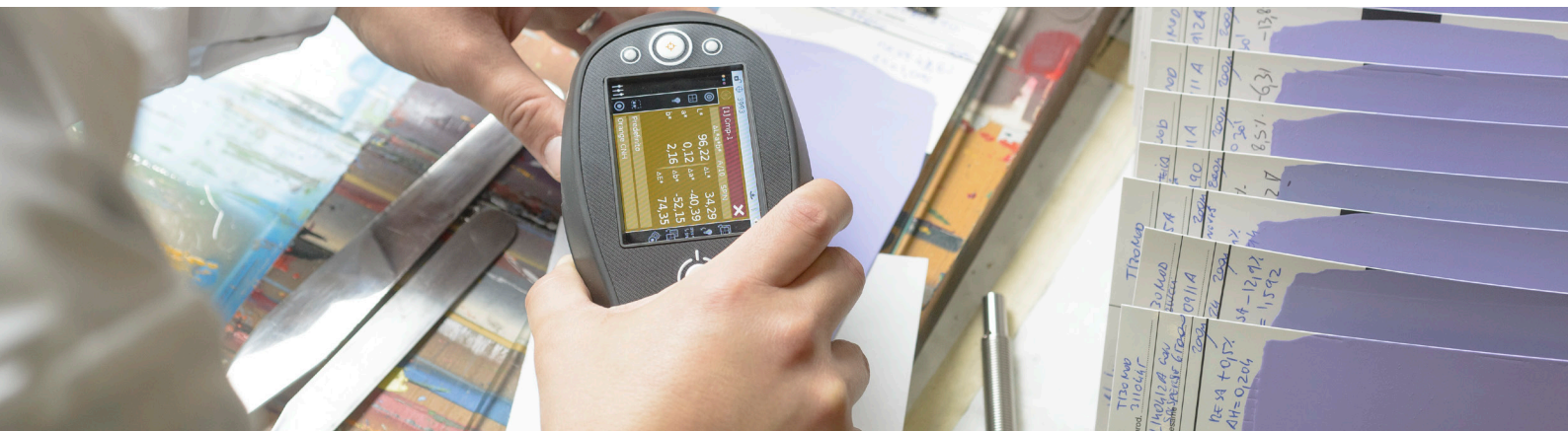


Austis Increases Productivity with X-Rite Color Solutions



The Situation

In its more than 20 year history, Austis a.s. has grown to become one of the leading manufacturers of water-based paints and construction chemistry products. The company operates two manufacturing plants and a Research and Development facility in three locations in the Czech Republic. Color quality and consistency are critical to all aspects of its work – from the paint produced for consumers all the way to how the paint color looks on a building.

About sixty percent of the products Austis produces are intended for the do-it-yourself sector. These products include paints for roofs, concrete, metal and wood substrates. Thirty percent of Austis's products are intended for industrial use, and these include anticorrosion paints, roof paints, and specialty paints.

"X-RITE SOLUTIONS HAVE MADE AN UNBELIEVABLE DIFFERENCE IN OUR BUSINESS. IT USED TO TAKE US TWO WEEKS TO PREPARE A COLOR. NOW WE CAN PREPARE FIVE TO SIX COLORS PER DAY." MARCEL JANOVSKY, PRODUCTION DIRECTOR, AUSTIS A.S.

The Solution

Austis used X-Rite's Color Formulation Software to build a database of more than 9,000 colors and adopted X-Rite spectrophotometers to measure and report on color quality and accuracy. These solutions support manufacturing, customer service, and formulation. Most recently, the company purchased a new X-Rite Ci62 spectrophotometer to bring new efficiencies to its formulation, customer service and Research & Development efforts.

Results

X-Rite solutions have become a critical resource for managing color quality in all areas of Austis's business. Marcel Janovsky, Production Director at Austis, says, "Claims of color difference are a common occurrence in the paint business. To solve this challenge, and improve customer relations, we use X-Rite spectrophotometers to verify color directly on the surface to which the paint has been applied to prove that the colors are a match." X-Rite solutions have also made a significant contribution to speeding up formulation of new paint colors.

Color Formulation

X-Rite's Color Formulation Software has enabled Austis to create a database that optimizes paint recipes, as well as helps them better manage paint and pigment stocks. While creating the color database took some time, the longer-term benefits of time and cost savings have made that investment well worth the effort.

Spectrophotometers Ensure Accuracy

Austis initially purchased three SP62 Portable Sphere Spectrophotometers. Two are used to ensure accuracy and color consistency in the paints Austis manufactures for their customers, and the third is used by the commercial technical service team to measure and evaluate colors on-site, both for quality assurance and to match existing site colors.

Into the Future with the Ci62

Austis' new X-Rite Ci62 handheld spectrophotometer offers outstanding inter-instrument and inter-generation agreement with Austis' existing solutions and has become a critical part of how Austis manages color quality in its R&D labs.

Janovsky notes, "When I started 16 years ago, formulation was time consuming and often produced inconsistent results. The difference X-Rite solutions have made is unbelievable. It used to take two weeks to prepare a color – now we can prepare five to six colors per day. We cannot imagine life without our X-Rite solutions for color quality control, formulation and general color management." solving our questions concerning color control quality, color recipes, and genera