



VLT® AutomationDrive saves EUR 15.000 every year

The Dutch company Royal Ahrend N.V. with more than 1500 employees and active worldwide is the supplier of stationery and manufacturer of office furniture. Ahrend's mission is to be a top international player in the office world by staying ahead of competition through the use of modern technology. It's not surprising that Ahrend was one of the first to use the VLT® AutomationDrive.

In Ahrend's production facility in Sint Oedenrode, steel office furniture is manufactured from basic raw materials. Seven air-heaters are used to heat one of the production halls.

Initially the installation produced excess moisture and to reduce the moisture a large ventilation and heating system was installed. After the old air-heaters were replaced by newer and less moisture producing ones, it was no longer necessary to maintain the full ventilation and heating capacity. Therefore a single VLT® AutomationDrive FC 302 was installed to reduce the heaters to a third of their ventilation capacity. In this way, 2800 Watts of electrical energy is saved in driving the ventilators. The largest savings however are the fact that less air has to be heated, resulting in less gas consumption and an annual saving of 15.000 Euros.

Next to these savings, the application of the VLT® AutomationDrive also resulted in less noise produced by the vent fans. Ahrend has also planned to incorporate a continuous regulation of the ventilation on the basis of the temperature in

the production hall, utilising one of the analogue inputs of the VLT® AutomationDrive. This will result in even greater savings than the 15.000 Euros already achieved.

Ahrend was able to realize these considerable savings and a significant reduction of noise with only a relatively small investment because driving seven motors over a long distance with only one VLT® AutomationDrive is no problem at all. But keep in mind the total length of the motor cabling and the fact that all motors should have the same power and that the total current is not more than the nominal current that can be provided by the drive. Although this drive was the first VLT® AutomationDrive they installed, setting up the drive turned out to be child's play for the electrical engineer of Ahrend, using the VLT® Motion Control Tool, a laptop and the USB-connection on the drive.