

PROCESS CONTROL SYSTEM

Process control in large-area coating is usually a non-automated task. It requires permanent monitoring of online measurements by human operators to detect deviations from a given reference spectrum. Such deviations result from different sources.

Typically, the operator must decide which process parameters need to be adjusted. Therefore, the operator's experience is crucial for achieving fast results. Closed loop control is available for individual layers in the coating stack, but not yet for full stacks.

Now, VON ARDENNE offers a new system relying on the optical information that is already available in the form of spectral measurements.

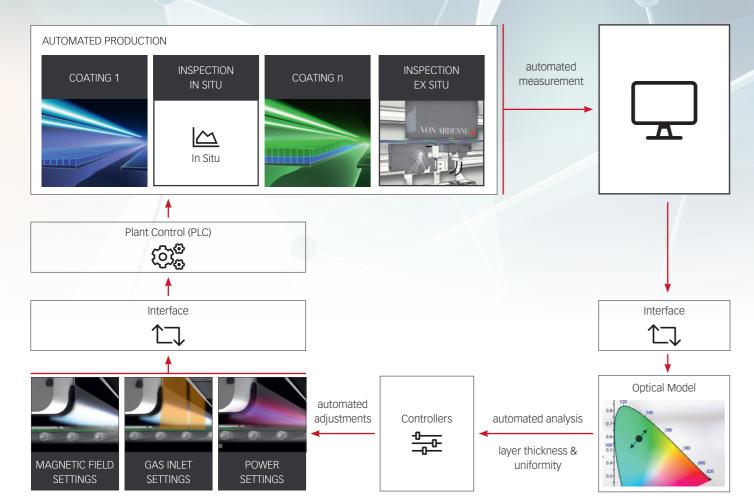
The **VA PROCESSMASTER** is the ideal solution for automated process setting and control for all layer systems. It follows a novel approach in process control and leads to best results without operator interaction. It also allows for a fully-automated stabilization of the sputtering process and improves product quality.

This tool enables our customers to create complex and attractive product recipes. It also helps them increase the uptime of their coating equipment, as it enables a faster adjustment to a new recipe.

ALGORITHM

The **VA PROCESSMASTER** is based on an innovative, newly developed control algorithm that connects available optical information to control plasma power, gas flow and magnet bar settings. This algorithm can be applied to various other input and output parameters that are available in real-time and whose correlation with the machine settings follows predictable rules.

The algorithm ensures a predictable and repeatable action when process deviations occur. This allows our customers to control their product within the smallest possible window of specification, avoid productivity losses due to false interpretation of process changes and minimize human error.





FEATURES FEATURES

Defined and predictable

Process correction follows best-practice algorithm, not individual operator experience

Permanent action and 24/7 operation

- Process deviations minimized instead of waiting for threshold violation
- ··· No "sawtooth" curves upon startup

Full overview

- ··· Simultaneous control of all magnetrons
- ··· Simultaneous mean value control of layer thickness and uniformity

Glass thickness compensation

··· Flexibility for using different substrates

₹≡ BENEFITS

- ... Increased yield & reduced cost of quality & claim management by
- Improved quality by stabilized sputter process, reduced product variation and out-of-spec losses
- ✓ Larger product portfolio with more profitable products
- More output by accelerated product recipe changes in order to gain production up-time
- ✓ Stable operating points over long periods
- Very high homogeneity of individual layers and layer stacks (color)
- ··· Simplified operation
- ··· Larger product portfolio with more profitable products

PRODUCT BUNDLES

VA PROCESSMASTER License Levels

- ··· BASIC: indication of layer deviation, open loop
- BASIC+: indication of parameter change for layer deviation, open loop enabling manual correction
- PROFESSIONAL: closed loop control of layer deviation excl. adjustable magnet bars
- PROFESSIONAL+: closed loop control of layer deviation incl. adjustable magnet bars

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

System requirements

- ··· PLC Siemens S7 Version 5.6 or newer
- ··· VA coaters built in or after 2012
- Measurement SW with network and/or database interface; e.g., VA Ex-Situ version 12 or newer
- Other control systems need significant interface programming;
 can be performed by customer according to VA requirement











WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

VON ARDENNE develops and manufactures industrial equipment for vacuum coatings on materials such as glass, wafers, metal strip and polymer films. These coatings give the surfaces new functional properties and can be between one nanometer and a few micrometers thin, depending on the application.

Our customers use these materials to make high-quality products such as architectural glass, displays for smartphones and touchscreens, solar modules and heat protection window film for automotive glass.

We supply our customers with technologically sophisticated vacuum coating systems, extensive expertise and global service. The key components are developed and manufactured by VON ARDENNE itself.

Systems and components made by VON ARDENNE make a valuable contribution to protecting the environment. They are vital for manufacturing products which help to use less energy or to generate energy from renewable resources.





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