



# MODERN PAPER MAKING WITH WEDGE



*Orora's Botany Mill modernized their paper making process five years ago in Australia. Three 1960's vintage paper machines were replaced by the B9 paper machine, the most sophisticated machine of its type in the southern hemisphere. The mass of information from the new production line was huge so Orora got process diagnostic tool Wedge to keep them up the path of development.*

– When the B9 machine came to life in 2012, it soon became apparent that there was significantly more information available to manage and optimize the process than the older machines. This information came from many different systems and the only way to do this effectively was to drop the information into Microsoft Excel and manipulate it from there. Essentially it was very inefficient and consumed significant resources, tells **Paul Chappell**, Technical Manager of Botany Mill.

#### **FLEXIBILITY CONVINCED ORORA**

Orora installed Wedge in April 2015 and have been on a path of development ever since. The original installation involved obtaining information from the Metso DNA system, Quality

Recording Module and production recording system. In addition, Orora opted for the Wedge profile edition which allowed profile information to be monitored from the paper machine scanners.

– Several systems were considered however Wedge was chosen due to its flexibility and ability to assist in trouble shooting complex process problems and ultimately improve and optimize production and quality issues, Chappell adds.

#### **QUALITY IN CONTROL**

Today the Wedge system at Orora Botany Mills contains over 24,000 tags across multiple systems.





Orora Botany Mill in Australia. Photos Orora Ltd.

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PAUL CHAPPELL  
*Technical Manager, Orora Botany Mill*



*Process engineer Muzaffar Goolam (right) has helped to develop Wedge use in the guidance of Paul Chappell.*

**EXPANDING POSSIBILITIES**

Orora will be further developing Wedge in the future to improve process monitoring, quality control and optimization. He thinks the biggest opportunity on site is to further develop the Wedge skills of workers in using it to quickly analyze issues in the production process.

– Increasing daily usage to increase familiarity with Wedge is the only way to be able to achieve this goal. We also are

looking at adding more of our mill’s systems into Wedge. Recently we have approached Savcor about incorporating other process systems such as our Valmet process and quality vision system for example sheet defects and break cameras) into Wedge to allow tracing of defects and quicker diagnosis of paper breaks.

Wedge is used for general problem solving and monitoring by primarily operators and middle management at this stage. Chappel says the challenge is further develop the system and encourage system utilization by the entire team.

– The key to getting full value from the system is having a site champion whose function is to develop the system in conjunction with process specialists, operators and management.

He adds that on site, Wedge has been incredibly useful in allowing them to set standards for how to best run process and notify if any key parameters are not meeting their standards. They have also seen benefits in its ability to optimize process

additives, troubleshooting production problems, energy monitoring, day to day monitoring in each area and better quality control.

**GUIDANCE AT SITE**

Chappel says they have received good technical support regarding updates and troubleshooting from the Wedge technical support team from Savcor.

– We have been fortunate to have had Savcor’s product manager **Mika Suojärvi** as our Wedge support who has been able to assist and provide guidance on Wedge system development on our site.



**FACTS**

- B9 has the capability of producing 400,000 metric Tonnes of paper per annum.
- It manufactures test liners and corrugating medium packaging papers in the basis weight range 100–205 gsm.
- The machine supplies paper to Australia, mainly Orora owned box plants, as well as New Zealand, Asia and North America.
- The machine itself is 5660 mm wide and capable of running up to 1600 m/min. Savcor’s Wedge is used in the mill in the stock preparation, stock approach, paper machine and winder areas.