



MACHINE WET END TEMPERATURE CONTROL

This case study is taken directly from a senior student project done by UW-Stevens Point students Ashley Buelow, Alex Pohl, Steve Schlosser, and Doug Weber.

Objective

Focus on increasing and stabilizing the UWSP Pilot Paper Machine's stock temperature to increase drainage on the Fourdrinier and minimize drainage variability. The project wanted to:

- Identify the potential impact of installing a temperature control system
- Research various control systems to find the ideal system
- Install and optimize the new temperature control system
- Target a 3% increase in consistency prior to Couch roll

End User

A higher learning institution located in the state of Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, specifically, the Paper Science and Engineering School. The school runs a pilot paper machine as part of their learning experience.

Design Conditions

Fluid:	Whitewater/Thick stock loop	Discharge Temperature:	140°F [60°C]
Flow Rates:	140–200 GPM [32-45 m ³ /hr]	Fluid Supply Pressure:	20-40 psig [1-3 bar]
Inlet Temperature:	58°F [14°C]	Steam Supply Pressure:	100 psig [7 bar]

Process Challenges

The paper machine's stock preparation and wet-end temperature was not constant and they had difficulty controlling the temperature of the water. This caused temperature fluctuations and unstable machine operations.

Solution

The team investigated several forms of water heating technology and determined that direct steam injection was their best solution because of its ability to hold a constant set-point temperature. The students also compared different brands of DSI heaters and determined the EZ Heater® was their best option because



it offered the inherent properties of direct steam injection water heating, but it also provided internal modulation, a self cleaning design, and required far less maintenance than other direct steam injection options.

Results

The students carefully measured and analyzed their results (see their report) and found they far exceeded their stated goal of increasing paper consistency by 3% prior to the Couch Roll. Paper consistency prior to the Couch increased as much as 11% because of the accurate temperature control of the EZ Heater. The project also found an amazing bonus result in cost savings due to better temperature control. Runability increased so well that ability to run more highly refined grades of paper. The dryer capacity was a limiting factor in the student's ability to run these grades in the past.

It is estimated that the better runability will result in a 66% increase in production and decrease production time needed by 7%, saving over \$23,000/ year in production costs. The team also predicts that they will be able to obtain more contract work and ultimately increase sales due to the use of the EZ Heater and its temperature control.



The UWSP Paper Science and Engineering program is committed to preparing students for successful technical careers in the pulp, paper and allied industries. This mission is accomplished by promoting excellence in instruction, undergraduate research opportunities, industrial internships, and involvement in professional organizations.

Production rate before steam:	150 lbs/hr
Production rate after steam:	225 lbs/hr
Change in production rate:	75 lbs/hr
Price per lb of paper:	\$4.50 usd/hr
Nuway run hours per year:	70 hrs/yr
USD saved per hour:	\$675.00 usd/hr
Additional est. steam usage:	-\$265.00 usd/yr
Annualized Savings:	\$23,360.00 usd/yr

The EZ Heater has also been instrumental in performing repulping studies, where thick stock pulp is required to be at specific test conditions (temperature) for cleaning and screening. Without the EZ Heater, this source of contract work would not have been possible.