

# The Case for DCS



## DCS and Enterprise Pull Off the First Remote Install of Automated Liquid Color Dispensing System — Without a Hitch

**Enterprise Precast** has installed—without DCS personnel on site—a brand new automated liquid color dispensing system in its Corsicana, TX plant. The install was the first of its kind, coordinated remotely by phone, video, and computer due to considerations surrounding COVID-19. The new system is already paying dividends for Enterprise in improved quality control, productivity and efficiency.

“From a production standpoint, the system is doing exactly what we wanted it to do. It’s accurate every time, sealed, automated,” said Scott Davis, Operations Manager of the Corsicana facility. “It has eliminated somebody having to go up and open the mixer—and worrying about who’s putting in pigment. The automation of the color process has allowed us to volume batch. So, it’s already beginning to show its value in terms of labor and material savings.”



Enterprise Plant Manager Gavin Tupper and Operations Manager Scott Davis, in front of the DCS liquid color system Enterprise self-installed with remote assistance from DCS.



Enterprise’s Corsicana, TX plant was the site of DCS’ first-ever remote installation of its automated liquid color system.

### Saving Time and Money, While Improving Quality and Inventory Control

DCS’s automated liquid color system allows the computer-controlled blending of five base liquid pigments, plus two additional custom preblended colors, to accurately produce thousands of colors. The process enables improvements in quality and consistency, while saving labor costs, reducing waste, and improving inventory control.

“It is a pretty simple concept, really,” said Jimmy Crawford, Vice President of Development at DCS. “But there are a lot of details to the installation of one of these systems. A lot of boxes to check. Getting one



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# The Case for DCS Enterprise Precast

up and running without a DCS employee ever setting foot in the customer's plant was something we had never tried before. Really, something we had never thought about trying before COVID. The remarkable thing was that this was one of the smoothest installations of one of these systems that we have ever had."

Enterprise Plant Manager Gavin Tupper said that "there were definitely some concerns in the beginning. But you know, it wasn't a matter of, can we do it? It was, how are we going to do it? And then working through those problems one by one, and finding the solutions to make it work."

Crawford admits that when Enterprise flipped the switch and turned on the system on Oct. 31, 2020, and everything worked, "we were a little bit surprised." It had never happened that way before, even with DCS personnel on site. "There are usually bugs to work out. But we got them all worked out in advance. Both DCS and Enterprise—separately and together—put a lot of time and energy into planning the installation."

## Planning, Planning, and More Planning

Discussions between DCS and Enterprise about an automated color system for the Corsicana plant had begun back in 2016. Enterprise, a longtime DCS dry pigment customer with a specialty in architectural precast, was looking to improve efficiency. "About 90 percent of our concrete has color in it. Getting color right is extremely important to us," said John Arehart, Vice President of Architectural Precast for both Enterprise's Omaha plant and the Corsicana plant.

After briefly looking at a granular pigment system, DCS and Enterprise came to the conclusion that an automated liquid system was the right fit. Crawford developed and submitted the "Enterprise Precast Dispenser COVID Response Plan." It emphasized the need for planning and for communication during the install. "That was August 21st. From that day through start-up on Saturday, Oct. 31st, someone from DCS was in contact with someone from Enterprise almost every single day," he said.

## Physical Plant Preparations and Batch Control Integration Were Key

Back in Corsicana, one concern was physically accommodating the new system, according to Arehart. "We had to overcome some logistical hurdles concerning the height of the roof and the layout of the plant. We had to do a small addition to the plant to accommodate the equipment. Gavin (Tupper) and Scott (Davis) did a lot of preplanning on this. Jimmy gave them the parameters for the system. Then, once the equipment showed up and we put it in place, it was pretty much plug and play—very seamless."

On DCS' end, the biggest concern was the integration of the liquid color system with Enterprise's batch control system. Working that out in advance is a major reason the installation went so smoothly, Crawford said. "We had their batch control supplier at our facility for a couple of days around the first of September and were able to work out a number of issues in advance. So, when Enterprise connected our equipment to their batch controller, everything functioned seamlessly. That was huge."

## Trust and Communication Made the Difference

Both DCS and Enterprise credit their long history of working together for making the project a success. "We really try to become partners with our customers. And this installation was a case that proved the value of that philosophy, I think," said Crawford. "Without that kind of relationship with Enterprise, we couldn't have pulled this off."

"We've been on DCS pigments for 15 or 20 years, maybe longer. We've been loyal DCS fans for a long, long time," Arehart said.

Davis added, "Not only does our company have a great relationship with DCS, I've got a multicompany relationship with DCS through my history in the industry. They've got good standing in our industry. And, yeah, we have a lot of trust in them. They earned their stripes with this one, for sure! We're very happy with the new system, and DCS sure went the extra mile to get it in here."