

case study

Spangler Candy Upgrades to Niagara for Precise Automation and Consistent Quality

In the manufacture of candy and other food and beverages, steam demand can change by the minute. Boiler controls must respond just as fast. An iconic confectioner based in Ohio is meeting its dynamic process requirements with an open automation controls solution based on Niagara Framework®.

CHALLENGE

Founded in 1906, Spangler Candy Company is a fourth-generation, family-owned confectionery manufacturer known worldwide for its iconic candy brands, including Bit-O-Honey, Dum-Dums, and Necco Wafers. With a long-standing commitment to quality, consistency, and innovation, Spangler relies on highly reliable industrial processes to maintain product integrity, produce consistent candy quality, and meet production demands uninterrupted.

Spangler recently installed three new Bryan steam boilers, each equipped with factory-installed controls. While the boilers themselves met the mechanical requirements of the application, the original control systems proved unable to effectively manage the rapidly changing steam demand associated with Spangler's industrial cooking processes used in their candy lines.

The cooking process created frequent and significant fluctuations in steam load, requiring fast, coordinated boiler response. The existing controls lacked the flexibility and intelligence needed to:

- Respond dynamically to changing steam demand
- Coordinate multiple boilers efficiently
- Provide clear visibility into plant operation
- Deliver historical trending and proactive alarming

SOLUTION

Spangler contacted Gardiner Building Technology Partners based on its dual expertise as both the local Bryan Boiler representative and a trusted automation partner. Gardiner worked closely with Spangler's operations and maintenance teams to carefully plan, stage, and execute the installation and commissioning of a Niagara Framework controls retrofit for the Bryan boilers. The upgraded control system would enable real-time response to rapid steam demand changes, as well as enhanced visibility and operator usability. A key requirement of the project was as close to zero production downtime as possible. The candy-making operation needed to remain fully operational throughout the transition.

The team listened to our needs and found easy, practical solutions to our problems. This gave our company a clean and user-friendly end result. A great return on investment!

Nathan Buntain
Boiler Plant Supervisor
Spangler Candy Company

FAST FACTS

Authorized Niagara Reseller Partner: Gardiner Building Technology Partners

Customer: Spangler Candy Company

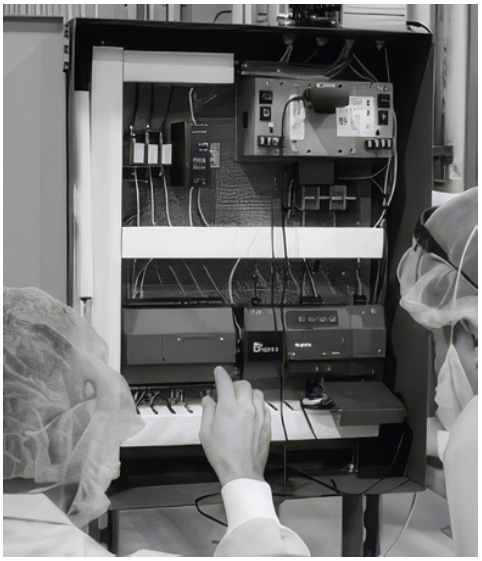
Industry: Food & Beverage Processing

Location: Bryan, OH

Project Type: Replace original equipment controllers on the steam boiler plant used for industrial cooking with Niagara Framework-based control system.

Key Technologies: Vykon Open Automation Platform with Niagara Framework®





RESULTS

By leveraging its combined expertise in boiler systems and advanced automation, Gardiner delivered a robust, flexible solution that transformed Spangler Candy Company's steam boiler plant into a responsive, data-driven system. The result is improved reliability, better process control, and peace of mind for Spangler, as it participates in the highly regulated, highly competitive, mission-critical food processing industry.

The solution has the following system features and capabilities:

- **Dynamic Boiler Plant Control:** Programmable logic continuously adapts to fluctuating steam demand, optimizing boiler staging and response.
- **Web-Based Operator Graphics:** Using the Vykon controllers' built-in web browser, Gardiner built custom boiler plant graphics displayed directly in the boiler room, giving operators intuitive, real-time insight into system performance.
- **Historical Trending & Data Visibility:** Operators and maintenance staff now have access to historical operating data, enabling performance analysis, optimization, and informed decision-making.
- **Critical Alarming & Notifications:** The system provides alarms for critical conditions, allowing Spangler's team to respond quickly to potential issues before they impact production.
- **Open, Scalable Architecture:** Based on Niagara Framework, the Vykon open system supports long-term flexibility, future expansion, and avoidance of proprietary lock-in.

ABOUT GARDINER

Gardiner is a full-service HVAC and building technology partner serving Northern Ohio's commercial, industrial and institutional facilities, engineers and contractors since 1962. More than 2,500 clients trust Gardiner to solve their building comfort, reliability, air quality, energy, fire & security, facilities planning and project funding challenges. Gardiner's team consists of more than 260 local associates serving Cleveland, Akron/Canton, Youngstown, Toledo and Fort Wayne, IN areas. To learn more, visit: www.whgardiner.com.

ABOUT TRIDIUM

Tridium is the developer of Niagara Framework®, an automation platform for the development and deployment of connected products and device-to-enterprise applications. Niagara provides the critical device connectivity, cyber security, control, data management, device management and user presentation capabilities needed to extract value and insight from real-time operational data in buildings, data centers, manufacturing systems, smart cities and more. Support for open-protocols and attention to cyber defense has made Niagara Framework® the industry leader in building automation systems and IoT solutions.

TRIDIUM
tridium.com

Americas: support@tridium.com
EMEA: ordersEMEA@tridium.com
Asia-Pacific: tsupportAP@tridium.com

This case study is provided for information purposes only. Results may vary by customer. © 2026-0015