Case Study

Automating Performance Measurements of Automotive Steering Shafts

Customer

The Torrington Co. (Watertown, CT) produces precision bearings and motion control products, including automotive steering shafts.

Challenge

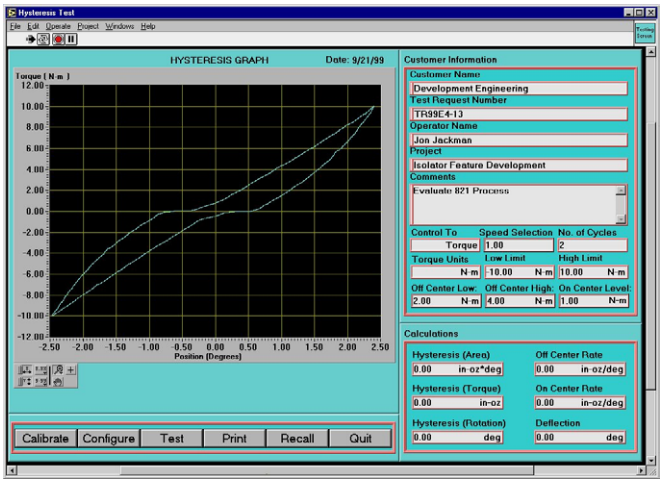
Replace manual data collection and calculation to improve throughput and repeatability of steering shaft test system.

Solution

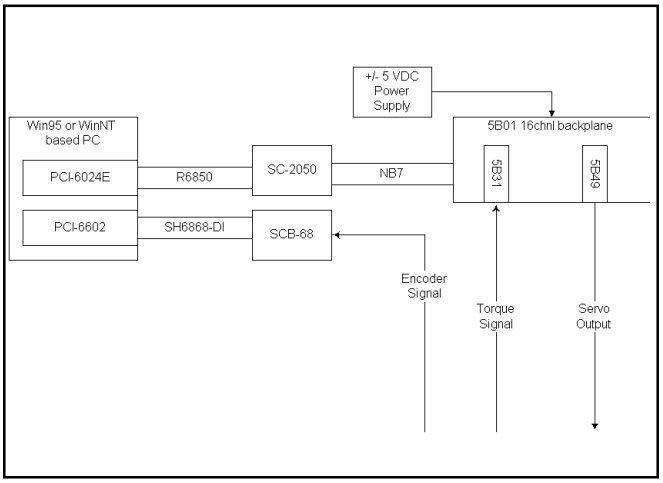
Incorporate automated data acquisition and analysis into the existing test system.

Key products used:

- National Instruments (NI) LabVIEW
- NI PCI-6024E data acquisition board
- NI PCI-6602 data acquisition board



User interface displays graph of torque and position measurements



System diagram

Benefits

With LabVIEW, the measurement equipment can be set up, data acquired and displayed, calculations performed, results displayed, and raw data sent to file in about three minutes per sample. This is a 4X improvement over the 12 minutes previously required to complete the same process. LabVIEW also produces a more detailed graph than the previously used pen-plotted graph. Exact values can be pinpointed with higher precision, improving accuracy and consistency of data analysis.

"LabVIEW is being viewed as a preferred system for newly purchased test and measurement equipment at our product development lab."

– Jon Jackman, Test Development Engineer, Torrington Co.

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