



# GOODBYE TO MANUAL MIXING

## Introduction:

Manufactures underground boring equipment for gas and water lines. Used “hot potting” or manually mixed 2 paint components to be able to spray two colors: yellow and black.

## Background:

This company has one booth for top coating and would manually mix the black and yellow paints. It took well over an hour to change out the colors. Parts being fabricated were staged all over the plant waiting to be painted. Due to backlog and space contingencies, some items were forced to be stored outside. Rainy days would slow down the process even more.

## Air Power Solution:

Air Power, Inc. suggested using a Graco Promix 2KE with gun flush box and utilize drum pumps they already had. Mixing on demand out of a 55 gallon drum of each component, improved the ability to change colors in less time than it takes to bring a new part to be coated.

## Results:

- Operators no longer have to mix paint in pots. Paint is automatically mixed, on demand, at the desired ratio for both black and yellow. This saves the operators between 2 to 4 hours per day!
- Operators are able to paint one color, put a gun in a gun flush box, wheel the part out, bring a new part in, then without hesitation, pick up the same gun and spray a different color. This process now takes less than a minute instead of an hour!
- Operators no longer have to waste paint. On average, this will save at least 5 gallons (\$750) of mixed paint per week!
- Parts are no longer stored throughout the building, including outside. As they come out of fabrication, they are immediately sprayed, no matter what color. This improved the flow of the entire production line tremendously!



- They no longer need to clean guns and flush pressure pots with solvent. With the use of a gun flush box, at each color change, or pot life expiration, the system automatically flushes for a determined time based on tests run at the plant.
- Based on the calculations this system had an ROI of less than 10 months. This does not include time of labor savings for the operator.

Tim Hynes, Ben Kline, and Craver Evans worked around the customer’s schedule, not halting production, in order to get this system up and running.