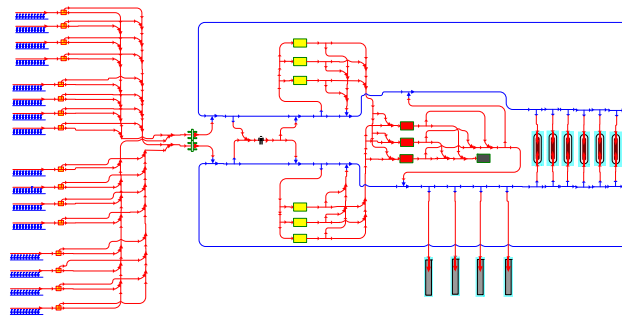


## Simulation and Control of Complex Conveyor Networks

Control of conveyor networks incorporates the physical aspects of switching conveyors on and off, utilisation of sensory inputs and the efficient routing of items through the network to decrease in-system time and improve throughput. A simulation model of a conveyor network enables the testing of these differing control problems. Through emulation, it is possible to integrate the simulation model with the real world control system for testing purposes. The simulation model is also a tool to answer ‘what if’ questions about the overall routing methodology. Understanding the dynamics, control and subsequent performance of conveyor networks has significant implications in many other network domains, such as communications.



**Figure 1 Schematic of a Conveyor Network**