CHECKLIST

3 ways to improve maintenance in manufacturing

ENTERPRISE ASSET MANAGEMENT

$2 million.[1] That's the average cost of a four-hour manufacturing outage, according to Aberdeen Research. When downtime or outages happen, modern organizations can no longer afford to rely on reactive maintenance strategies, manual processes, and legacy systems.

Because downtime often occurs during what should be peak productivity periods, reactive maintenance is the most expensive way to do business. Paper records and manual entry are prone to errors and lack the visibility to anticipate and fix potential problems before unexpected downtime occurs. Legacy systems also can impact employee safety, product quality, and service.

With the pressures of market volatility, ramped-up consumer expectations, and increasing competition, traditional methods of enterprise asset management (EAM) are no longer viable.

This checklist outlines three ways to capitalize on the growing use of sensor-based innovations, Internet of Things (IoT), mobile capabilities, and cloud deployment—and shift to an EAM culture aligned with the digital revolution.

Organizations with modern EAM systems have experienced up to a 50% increase in warranty cost recovery.[2]

A modern EAM solution can help reduce maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO) inventory purchasing costs by up to 50%.[3]

1. Take advantage of available technology

Analyzing the performance data collected from critical equipment can provide advanced warnings of failure probability. A modern EAM solution taps into the growing amount of data captured by embedded sensors, robotic production, automated routing, and other smart asset functionality to provide asset managers global views of the entire operation. These insights enable in-depth analysis of everything from facility condition assessment to remaining useful life, estimated replacement costs, and even service contracts or warranties. And as the cost of sensors continues to decrease, they can be added to more than just the most critical pieces of equipment for a holistic view of performance.

2. Let real data drive decisions

While focusing on a predictive maintenance strategy that maximizes uptime, it's still imperative to monitor risks of failure. Using real-time, industry-specific business analytics provides a deeper understanding of equipment condition, asset lifecycle, and potential for failure—before it happens. Staff schedules and work orders are fully integrated into the same system. Techs and other staff, whether at the job site or in the office, can use mobile devices to enter maintenance updates as they happen. Up-to-the-minute reporting on areas such as overtime and labor costs is available whenever and wherever it's needed. Sharper and more timely visibility into the supply chain empowers more purchasing control and cost efficiencies.

3. Embrace reliability-based maintenance

Reliability-based maintenance (RBM) is next-level EAM.[4] RBM provides a framework that includes creating a master list of assets, ranking them according to their criticality, and developing a preventative maintenance plan that focuses on assets whose failure would have the greatest impact on business continuity.

All assets are not created equal, and a successful RBM/EAM approach can help you to develop a low, medium, high, and critical asset hierarchy. Some organizations get very granular, going as far as identifying a hierarchy of critical spare parts.

Equipment downtime can be reduced by up to 30% with the data available in a modern EAM system.[6]

True RBM is driven by smart technologies and capitalizes on the growing connectedness achievable through IoT and, often, cloud deployment. According to a recent survey, 71% of the respondents said that cloud penetration in manufacturing will significantly increase in the next five years.[5] This in turn enables data exchange among mobile devices, as well as the application of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).

While all of that can sound overwhelming, an RBM plan also prioritizes working with a partner who has industry expertise and a track record of customers who have achieved success in digitizing their maintenance operations. You don't have to become an expert in order to reap the benefits of RBM.

1. Vanson Bourne Research, "After the Fall: Cost, Causes and Consequences of Unplanned Downtime," accessed May 4, 2020.
2. Infor customer value assessments, 2019.
3. Infor.
4. Kevin Price, "7 Steps for Implementing Reliability-based Maintenance," Reliable Plant, accessed May 4, 2020.
5. Pratikash Bagh, "Cloud computing—a game changer for the manufacturing industry," The Digital Transformation People, Jan 13, 2019.
6. Infor.

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