



Case Study – Fibre Products Manufacturing Company

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Presented by: Mark Lees

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Summary details

Client approval: Yes

Company information

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Solution group	Manufacturing – fibre products
Solution offering	Planned maintenance system, CMMS
Project name or title	n/a

Customer profile

Customer name	Synthetic fibre products manufacturing company
Address	West Midlands, England

Industry	Fibres
Number of employees	40 - 60
Annual revenue	c. £9m

Case Study Report

Case Study for fibre products manufacturer, West Midlands, England

Company profile

- Established in the late 1950s, one of the main fibre product manufacturers in the West Midlands
- Revenues in 2006: > £9 million
- Producing polyester and other fibre based products up to 4m width
- Active in a range of markets, including automotive, furniture, bedding, filtration and insulation.

Business situation

Despite being a market leader in their industry, able to produce in large volumes and having one of the most technologically advanced manufacturing plants in Europe, machine availability and downtime were running at unacceptable levels. There was little control over spares stock levels, and maintenance staffing was unreliable and unfocussed.

Technical situation

This Client's production facility had received high levels of investment and contained modern, efficient, and technically advanced machinery. Because of their current situation, a solution needed to be found that would assist in improving machine availability and reliability, and also improve maintenance department effectiveness.

Solution

An initial audit of the client's maintenance procedures and problems was carried out. Following the audit, a proposal documenting the proposed changes and improvements was given to the client. Following client acceptance and working alongside the client's own engineering staff, sensible and effective planned maintenance schedules were drawn up for all major items of equipment. In addition, key safety tasks & legal requirements were examined and suitable procedures introduced to ensure full compliance both with internal and external requirements. Spares stocks were examined, and an assessment of crucial spares was made. Finally, maintenance staffing and shift patterns were examined.

Routine maintenance tasks were generated from a bespoke computerised maintenance management system (CMMS) created to meet the client's needs. Running in Microsoft Access, this application was multi-user, with both engineering and production staff having varying degrees of access. All maintenance work was logged in the system, providing valuable machine repair history. All spares holding was listed in a custom stock control module within the application, allowing for both accurate stock reconciliation and repair costings.

Examination of the maintenance staffing pattern indicated a great disparity between production and maintenance departments. Proposals were drawn up to marry shift patterns in both departments to improve working relationships & morale. To assist staff with managing the shift rostering, a separate Microsoft Excel rostering system was implemented to allow all concerned to see at a glance their working hours for the current month, and also to accommodate changes due to sickness and holidays.

Benefits

There were many benefits for the client in adopting EAM Consulting's solution, but included were the following key benefits:

- Improvement in maintenance staff morale
- Reduction in maintenance attributable downtime (reduced by > 35%)
- Improvement in machine availability (increased by > 40%)
- Machine reliability improved
- Reductions in both manpower and manufacturing costs
- Improvements in product quality
- Fully documented machine history/repair records

Products and services used

- MS Access runtime based CMMS and integrated stock system
- MS Excel based work rostering system

Services provided by other groups or companies

No outside companies or organisations were used in the provision of this particular solution.



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