

J&L Steel
eMaintenance® Case Study

Projetechn's eMaintenance® Builds a Foundation for Improving Equipment Reliability at J&L Steel

Background

J&L Specialty Steel, Inc is the second largest austenitic stainless steel producer in the United States. The company produces flat rolled stainless steel at its two facilities located in Midland, Pennsylvania and Louisville, Ohio. J&L's maintenance is managed by four maintenance departments, aligned with the four primary operational units, and keeps spare parts inventory in two storerooms.

Challenge

J&L management identified a long-term need to increase equipment OEE (Operating Equipment Effectiveness) and asset reliability to give them an edge in the highly competitive steel industry. It put together a Process Improvement Team to develop a plan.

Some of their specific goals were:



- ? A system that is easy to use by the maintenance crafts and operations personnel
- ? Preventive Maintenance schedules based on steel production rates
- ? Equipment condition monitoring with handheld data collectors
- ? Thorough and accurate recording of equipment failure information
- ? Key Performance Indicators for Maintenance, including percentage of planned to unplanned work

The team quickly realized that it needed a solid foundation to achieve their goals, and that meant a robust Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS). J&L's parent company offered a CMMS system to their subsidiaries, but J&L had concerns about the flexibility, support, and the long implementation timeframe of that solution.

Solution

J&L chose the eMaintenance® hosted Maximo® environment from Projotech to meet their needs. Rather than just 'throwing software at a problem', the Projotech Project Manager helped the J&L project team analyze their business needs and use the building blocks of Maximo to craft a solution that truly delivered efficiency for J&L. The total implementation project was finished in just 9 months. This included making customizations to the Maximo screens, developing several new screens and reports, converting data from a previous system, developing four interfaces to other J&L systems, and training over 300 users.

A team of J&L Planners and Spares personnel worked closely with the Projotech staff throughout the implementation. They insured the system met the business needs of the organization and conducted the user training using the Projotech train-the-trainer approach. A train-the-trainer approach boosts end-user acceptance and, in the process, gives the trainer a deeper understanding of the system.

The Mobilizer handheld solution from Projotech was also implemented, using rugged Symbol handheld scanners. That increased workforce efficiency through the ability to record condition monitoring data while at the equipment, and to manage inspection and rounds work orders.

Results

J&L was up and running with a customized version of eMaintenance® on time and within budget. After implementation, these immediate benefits were evident:

- ? Increased equipment reliability
- ? Better identification and completion of maintenance, both corrective and preventive
- ? Increased workforce efficiency through better planning
- ? An increase of planned maintenance compared to unplanned maintenance
- ? Repetitive failures identified and eliminated
- ? More efficient use of spare parts inventory by sharing inventory between plants
- ? Preventive Maintenance based on operating equipment production (hours, heats, tons)

After implementation, the Projotech support team and project manager are always available to answer questions and analyze ways to use eMaintenance® to address new challenges to the maintenance organization. The end result was a definite win for the Process Improvement Team and for J&L Steel.

About Projotech

Projotech provides comprehensive asset and maintenance management solutions utilizing Maximo and offers their proprietary eMaintenance service, which is web-based. Maximo training and consulting is also available from the company. Projotech is an IBM authorized reseller of Maximo and is an authorized provider of support. Projotech is also the first IBM Authorized Independent Training Provider (AITP) Partner specializing in Maximo.

Projotech enables maintenance and reliability professionals from companies of all sizes to control costs and improve efficiency through effective management of facilities, equipment, transportation fleets, maintenance personnel and IT assets.

Established in 1990, Projotech has assembled a focused staff of industry experts to support maintenance and reliability professionals throughout North America.

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