Mobile capabilities of the Metris Platform can be scaled to the information needs of each customer.

It wasn’t that long ago that laptops and emails gave engineers, supervisors, and technicians freedom from having to sit in front of a DCS screen in order to monitor a mill’s processes or access key data. Freedom at last!

But, the idea of sitting at a desk and waiting for a laptop to fire up is “old school” now. Instant-on smartphones or tablets are “new school” tools that are changing the way workers get their jobs done.

MOBILE AS A STRATEGY

PwC Global’s 21st annual survey of CEOs found that 81% of CEOs from 77 countries see mobile technologies, including mobile, as strategically important for their companies.

Nearly 90% said that a clear vision of how digital technologies, including mobile, can create competitive advantage is key to the success of their investments.

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One of the targets is to mobilize mill activities that require quick accessibility to data via the handheld apps. Supervisors can see alarms in real time on their iPhone or Android devices no matter where they are. Business managers have real-time production and cost data in hand. Maintenance technicians have logbooks, checklists, repair procedures, and other documentation instantly available for each asset they are looking at. Information can be easily exchanged among team members or from one shift to another by smartphone.

The Condition Monitoring app helps identify situations where a machine needs service in order to avoid unexpected downtime. It can collect data from on-machine sensors (e.g., acoustic and vibration data) and display the data in a graph. Feedback of process or key issues can be mined and other service functions.

KEY APPS AVAILABLE NOW:

The Logbook app records important events and information generated by users. The data can then be mined and used to train new personnel, find solutions for recurring problems, etc. Team members can share updates and can upload photos and videos of equipment. Managers utilize the app to make announcements available to target groups of users.

The Checklist app is beneficial during equipment commissioning, inspections, or planned shutdowns. It gives visual feedback of progress or key issues and can be customized to display specific checklists or items to execute for specific individuals or teams. It has desktop integration so that data is shared between field personnel and maintenance planners.

The My Equipment app is a mobile asset monitoring platform that gives important real-time insight on the status of valves, motors, control loops, etc. It can be integrated with the Logbook app to report issues. An operator or maintenance person can use the smartphone to scan a barcode or QR code on the asset to obtain quick status information.

The Data Analytics app provides mobile data visualization, making it possible to perform data analysis in the field. Users can display process trends in graphical format, check real-time values, and have access to manuals or report related to a specific piece of equipment.

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