TURNING A SHUTDOWN INTO A PIT STOP

Just like super-fast pit stops in Grand Prix Formula One racing, ANDRITZ has been concentrating on helping customers to minimize shutdown times, utilizing its Metris OPP platform. The dedicated Metris Planning App is integrated into the platform and is already achieving remarkable results in shutdown efficiencies.

The Shutdown Challenge

In this context, a shutdown may involve 25% of the annual maintenance budget over a period varying from 8 to 10 days. Another critical factor is the number of tasks to be performed during the shutdown, which requires the coordination of many people. The shutdown is not only a challenge for the operators, but it is also a challenge for the management of the mill, which needs to ensure that all tasks are completed as planned.

The Solution

To address these challenges, ANDRITZ has developed a new application which has been integrated into its Metris OPP platform, the Metris Planning App. The new app allows online monitoring of the activities during the shutdown.

Benefits of this service:

- Proactive and anticipated action in case of deviations between planned and realized activities
- Online monitoring of the entire shutdown
- Visualization of the factory as a whole, by area or discipline, allowing those responsible for the scope to act immediately
- Integration with other applications integrating the Metris platform, focused on Asset performance – motors, valves, etc., allowing faster diagnostics in case of problems
- Reporting of problems by text, photos, or videos
- Specialized support by the ANDRITZ team

How Does it Work?

Clotil Aguiar, ANDRITZ OPP Technology Coordinator, says, “With the Metris Planning App, the maintenance people go out into the field with their mobile devices, which already have on them the tasks to execute. The shutdown management combined with Metris OPP solution brings light to these issues in that it enables real-time management of the process as well as remote monitoring during the distribution period.”

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that need to be completed and the list of equipment that needs to be checked. These tasks can be completely personalized and dedicated to each area of the mill, for example, woodyard, fiberline, recovery boiler, etc.

“When each piece of equipment is checked, for example, a chip pump, the dedicated box is ticked and the action is uploaded. Or, if the maintenance person spots a problem, or needs to add a comment, there is a facility to do this, including adding photos or even videos illustrating the status of the equipment. This information is then all synchronized into computers.

The ongoing maintenance at the mill is reported in real time, using a traffic light system of red, green, and amber, which reveals the status of each area being monitored. At once, the planning tool reduces the chance of making repeats or errors, at the same time eliminating the need for reams and reams of paper and a list of time inputting information into computers.

It also allows real-time management of both maintenance while the mill is running, as well as when on shutdown.

Veracel and has become an essential tool for micro planning, and particularly for optimizing the sequence of actions and steps before a shutdown takes place. It has also allowed us to identify areas where possible failures might take place, and areas where we can improve upon while the mill is running.

“Of course, we have always had to carefully plan shutdowns in the past, but the planning tool has enabled us to dramatically speed up the process. In terms of ease of use, it is important that you have good people to manage this tool to get the best results, and with our experienced mill engineers together with the knowledgeable people at ANDRITZ, we are reducing our mill shutdowns feedback information from taking one day to be on-line.”

This same approach has been used successfully in other large capacity mills in South America and is now being taken to other regions. As in pit stops, the Metris Planning App combines technology and people to obtain better results. Do you want this solution for your mill? Get in contact with one of our experts to put your shutdown in the pole position.

Veracel has been using the Metris Planning App for some years now, Ari Medeiros, Industrial Director at the mill, says, “The Metris Planning App has made a real difference to us at Veracel and has become an essential tool for micro planning, and particularly for optimizing the sequence of actions and steps before a shutdown takes place.”