



eBook

A Manufacturer's Guide to Visibility and Control

For manufacturing businesses, the pressure is on.



A large industrial robotic arm is shown in the process of welding a metal component. The arm is white and blue, with a welding torch at the end. Bright orange sparks are flying from the point of contact between the torch and the metal. The background is a dark, industrial setting with various pipes and machinery. The entire image has a blue tint.

Introduction

The need to improve productivity while managing ever-tightening margins has led to a rise in assets used, be that equipment, technology or people. The larger that number gets within a business, the greater the risk.

Many manufacturers struggle to achieve the levels of oversight and control needed to truly optimize their portfolio of assets and secure that all-important return on investment (ROI). More businesses are turning to enterprise asset management (EAM) solutions for help. An advanced EAM system helps businesses achieve the visibility and control required to not only boost production but to make a real difference to the bottom line.



What is EAM?

An EAM software solution enables you to better align workforce, equipment and resources with strategic priorities, maximizing not only the availability of all assets but their reliability and performance, too. By collating and analyzing asset data from across the organization, a robust EAM system turns this information into real, actionable business insight. This insight informs substantial operational improvements based on the optimal use of each asset.

The best EAM systems minimize downtime, reduce maintenance costs and mitigate against asset failure by optimizing all assets, eliminating departmental silos of information and facilitating collaborative working right across the organization. All of this contributes to a vast improvement in overall operational efficiency. This, in turn, boosts productivity for a positive impact on profitability while delivering the levels of business agility needed to build a critical competitive advantage.

Visibility

The right EAM system provides a comprehensive view of the location, condition and availability of assets throughout their entire lifecycle across multiple sites, and collates all asset information in a single location. The solution monitors the condition and performance of assets while identifying any patterns or anomalies. Customizable reports furnish the business with a deeper understanding of operations, providing the ability to tackle any issues head-on before they hurt production.

This in-depth organizational visibility allows greater precision when it comes to maintenance scheduling, be that for unforeseen repairs, planned inspections or mandatory equipment checks. Reviewing asset performance against pre-defined key performance indicators (KPIs) provides a more in-depth understanding of where and when to deploy available maintenance resources best to minimize downtime and maximize productivity.

Built-in business intelligence (BI) functionality facilitates comprehensive what-if scenario planning, providing a graphical view of workloads across timeframes, resources and assets, complete with accurate forecasting of multiple situations. This level of foresight offers the ability to plan, track and optimize business-wide maintenance, which is key to undoing the inefficient and disruptive break/fix cycle. The right EAM system drives a shift to more proactive maintenance by identifying early signs of impending failure or asset fatigue, analyzing multiple measurements from different sources like visual inspections, smart devices and operational data.

EAM systems lie at the heart of successful preventative maintenance programs. Preventative maintenance activities are scheduled according to accurate and timely information, keeping assets in a good state of repair. Not only does this prevent unforeseen, costly and often lengthy downtime, but it increases the longevity of assets resulting in considerably enhanced levels of ROI.





Control

Having access to EAM system data puts you firmly in the driver's seat, furnishing decision makers with the information needed to make swift, effective decisions. It puts you in full control of your assets, accurately monitoring not only effectiveness of performance but cost effectiveness as well.

Aside from enabling a significant reduction in equipment failures, an EAM solution captures, maintains and provides access to business-wide asset information, informing rapid, robust decision-making at every step of the way. It delivers the oversight necessary to ensure work tasks are assigned in line with the strategic priorities of the business. Maintenance activities are carried out at optimal times with the ability to accurately match engineer availability and skillsets to specific jobs, guaranteeing faster resolutions. This maximizes productivity through efficient maintenance planning and smooth work-order management.

It's easier to control costs, too, with the ability to track requisitions and purchasing capabilities built in alongside the option to enforce approval processes where necessary. In conjunction with advanced planning tools, there's the ability to track staff and contractor data, ensuring work tasks are assigned to the people with the right expertise and knowledge for the job. The goal, again, is to minimize downtime while building an efficient maintenance program.

Mobility

In our 24/7 global economy, robust EAM systems are truly mobile, allowing access to the systems anytime and anywhere. This ensures point-of-execution data capture capabilities for efficient, accurate record keeping, populating the EAM solution with exact and timely information for a detailed view of the organization's assets at any one time.

Users can submit maintenance requests through tablets and mobile devices in real-time, on or offline, with automated email alerts in place for activities that require review or approval. It's possible to download work assignments, review information pertinent to a particular job and instantly report on completion of tasks, all from the field. Business decisions are made quickly, safe in the knowledge that they're based on up-to-date, accurate information.





Internet of Things

The proliferation of smart devices over the past few years, in addition to the advent of the internet of things (IoT), has changed how organizations approach asset management. Comprehensive EAM systems embrace the automation that has been made possible by the IoT. An EAM system furnishes the business with an even clearer picture of asset performance by collating data from sensors and counters.

The right EAM system takes full advantage of the increasing amount of data available via the IoT, turning this data into further business insight to optimize operations across the board. For preventative and predictive maintenance, in particular, an advanced EAM system in conjunction with the IoT is a potent tool for a business to have at its disposal. Companies can secure cost and efficiency savings throughout the enterprise by making the most of the information and technology available, driving valuable process improvements while increasing profitability.

Head to the Cloud

Cloud or Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) deployments offer lower up-front costs compared to traditional delivery models, as well as a lower total cost of ownership when you factor in the ongoing costs of managing an EAM solution in-house. Hardware and system maintenance are taken care of, and security and disaster recovery capabilities are part of the package. Cloud providers are responsible for upgrades and updates, reducing the burden on your internal IT resources further still and allowing your IT team to focus on more strategic activities.

A vital benefit of a cloud-based EAM system for remote users is instant access to the full system via a web browser. The ability to flex and scale an EAM solution to suit business growth or changing seasonal requirements is less time-consuming, less costly and less labor-intensive when carried out in the cloud.



Aptean EAM

Aptean EAM is the leading EAM solution for manufacturers who want to optimize their assets to enhance overall business performance. Delivering tangible value and a rapid ROI, Aptean EAM sits at the very heart of your organization, maximizing the potential of every asset and increasing both the reliability and predictability of asset performance and cost. It uncovers new depths of visibility, control and business insight to boost productivity, ensuring substantial cost and efficiency savings to underpin a significant uplift in profitability.

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