5 Best Practices for Setting Your Machine Monitoring System up for Success

The purpose of implementing a machine monitoring system is to **improve plant productivity,** but some manufacturers get much better results than others. We wanted to know exactly what accounts for the difference—and what steps manufacturers can take to ensure success.

To find out, we studied the implementations of more than **50 Amper customers,** measuring **10 contributing parameters** and their effect on the factory floor. Ultimately, our research team identified **five key factors** that drive the most successful outcomes.

Every business seeks a good return on their investments. To get the most from your OEE tracking system investment, we suggest you follow these five proven best practices for implementation and beyond.

50
AMPER CUSTOMERS

10
CONTRIBUTING PARAMETERS

5
KEY FACTORS

Defining Success

A manufacturer that uses its machine monitoring system correctly and fully reaps the following benefits:

An improvement in QCD metrics, resulting in enhanced customer value. (For example, achieving consistent on-time delivery is one measurable outcome.)

The ability to sustain a culture of continuous improvement. When it comes to CI, some factories go through sporadic bursts of activity, followed by lulls. Ongoing use of a machine monitoring system helps keep CI efforts top-of-mind.

Data-based improvements in operations, including:

- Giving operators the support they need to maintain productivity

- Providing engineers with the data needed to move projects forward

- Arming executives with intelligence that allows them to make informed hiring, purchasing and pricing decisions

Furthermore, these factories share the following characteristics:

The machine monitoring system is installed across the entire shop floor, despite varied equipment.

The manufacturer has identified specific goals to track and work toward.

Users across the organization know how to use the system and its data.

Use of the system is consistent and sustained.

Managers rely on the system, rather than manually collecting data off the plant floor.

Managers know where the bottlenecks and training needs are and can address them.

No unpleasant surprises. Machines won't go down and sit idle for hours before someone notices there's a problem.

5 Best Practices for a Successful Implementation

Based on the results of Amper's analysis, these are the five key steps for ensuring that your implementation is a successful one

1

Appoint a High-level Project Champion

This is by far the most critical indicator to success (the Amper research team weighted it at 40% of the total). In order to win workforce buy-in and establish the right procedures from day one, the adoption of your machine monitoring system needs a high-level champion.

We found that, in our study cases, plant managers and VPs of Operations made very effective project champions. They command the respect of the workforce and have the power to spur the team toward greater productivity, preventing other priorities from eclipsing the project.

To be most impactful, the project champion should participate in implementation meetings and continue to maintain involvement with the system. He or she should be eager to review the ongoing data and keep pushing the team to new heights.

2

Incorporate Data into Plant KPIs

If you're like most manufacturers, you have QCD numbers that management reviews daily, weekly and/or monthly. It's critical that you incorporate the data generated by your machine monitoring system into the company's KPIs.

Measuring metrics like production hours and machine uptime allows the entire team to track its performance relative to factory goals. If this data isn't integrated into this process, your system will never be fully adopted.

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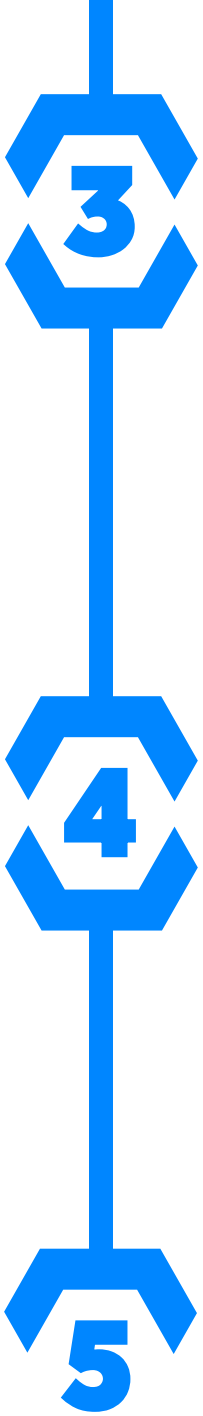
Identify a Project Owner to Manage Implementation

No matter how simple your machine monitoring system is, it still takes work to see that it's fully implemented, from equipment installation to training initiatives.

Chances are, your high-level project champion can't afford to get involved at a granular level. For this reason, you need someone who will roll up their sleeves and attend to the details. We found that, in many of our study cases, continuous improvement managers, project managers and process engineers made great project owners.

4

Make Sure Supervisors Review the Data

It's essential that your supervisors and production leads—the people who run your daily operations—stay on top of the system data and use it to inform their daily decision- making.

What jobs go on what machines? Who's operating them? Where are the bottlenecks? Who needs more training? Knowing each machine's uptime and set-up hurdles leads to more informed decision making—and if they aren't using that data, you're missing a huge opportunity.

5

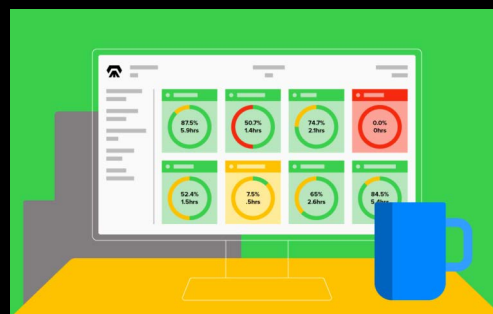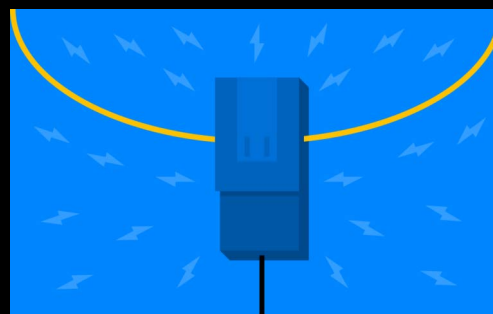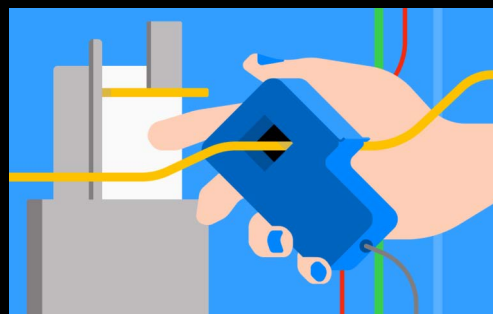## Hold Ongoing Meetings to Leverage Your System

We found that the manufacturers who got the most from their system made it part of their regular operations—and that included holding regular meetings to review the data and form action plans accordingly.

In addition, these manufacturers also took the time to meet regularly with their system vendor. The benefits: they received more thorough training, were informed of new feature updates, and had a better understanding of their system overall. (At Amper, we recommend—and make ourselves available for—weekly meetings initially, gradually tapering off to monthly meetings.)

Starting Off Right

If you're thinking about adopting a machine monitoring system, or want to get more from your current system, we invite you to learn more about our research. Feel free to watch our 30-minute video. You'll learn more about our five best practices—plus, simple, short-term game plans for putting them into action.

CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO