

Mohawk drives down energy use with Infor10 EAM




Setting the strategy.

For many decades, Mohawk has maintained a strong commitment to stewardship of natural resources. The company produces paper it developed with a high percentage of recycled content, ensures the fiber it purchases is harvested in a sustainable manner, and uses energy from renewable sources. But the company continues to step up these efforts in response to customer demands—and to improve profitability. With energy management as a corporate priority, Mohawk realized that a truly sustainable strategy is simply to drive down its energy consumption.

Paul Stamas, vice president of IT at Mohawk, explains: “Our energy costs rose 30% over the past 5 years, and the Department of Energy told us to expect another 10% increase in one year. Energy makes up Mohawk’s largest operating and maintenance expense—60% of it—and our motor and pump assets consume 75% of that energy.”

A few years earlier, the company wanted to reduce its energy consumption through effective management of its plants and assets. “Management needed visibility into data on the factory floor for better decision making,” Stamas adds. “We needed a roadmap to take us to the next level of operational excellence—an EAM system integrating energy into our asset management strategy.”

Getting business specific.

Mohawk selected Infor10™ EAM as its enterprise asset management solution. “Infor came in and listened to us and gained a sense of our culture and business objectives,” says Stamas. “We knew the company was a market leader, and it had a clear, concise roadmap for the future. It has a web-based architecture for superb usability and intuitiveness. The architecture also supports seamless integration with our enterprise resource planning (ERP) system.”

Another reason for Mohawk’s choice of EAM is that it works with business intelligence tools from Microsoft, including Microsoft SQL Server® 2005 database software. Stamas adds, “The huge amounts of data we wanted to collect required effective management. SQL Server is the standard of database systems, and our IT staff is familiar with its tools. That takes the complexity out of solution implementation, and it empowers our users to access information and act upon it.”

“With Infor’s solution, we expect an additional 15% to 20% drop in energy consumption on top of the nearly 15% we’ve already realized.”

—PAUL STAMAS, VP OF IT, MOHAWK FINE PAPERS

About the company.

Mohawk Fine Papers is the largest manufacturer of premium writing, printing, and digital paper in North America. Headquartered in Cohoes, New York, the company operates five manufacturing facilities that include six energy-intensive paper machines and 30 converting centers, with a total capacity of 175,000 tons of paper annually. An environmental leader for many decades, Mohawk has won three prestigious awards from the environmental community in one year—and continues to save costs as a result of its environmental initiatives.

To learn more about Mohawk Fine Papers, visit <http://www.mohawkpaper.com/>.

Seeing results.

Mohawk gained an array of benefits after deploying Infor10 EAM. “I haven’t seen a product in years that is as effective and user-friendly as Infor10 EAM,” Stamas proclaims. “We deployed it company-wide using Internet Explorer, and its ease of use meant fast adoption rates, better information gathered by users, and better decision making. It’s also flexible and scalable, and it integrates with other Mohawk software. We’re excited that with EAM Enterprise and SQL Server, we can add work instructions to the system in the form of video files. So if a machine is assigned a preventive maintenance cycle, the repair person can access all that information.”

Infor10 EAM has allowed Mohawk to improve preventive maintenance programs through more proactive inspections, calibrations, and repairs. “Infor10 EAM has directly improved the safety, availability, reliability, capacity, and performance of our critical assets,” says Stamas. “But we also had a surprising observation. As machines performed better through improved maintenance, our total energy consumption was decreasing. We realized that a more sustainable approach would be to drive down energy consumption in the first place through better energy management at the asset level—which also makes financial sense.”

Mohawk decided to implement Infor10 EAM Enterprise Asset Sustainability. Says Stamas, “The solution enables us to compare our assets’ designed energy use versus actual energy consumption—a powerful differentiator. We can now incorporate energy efficiency into our asset management program.”

The company has integrated the asset sustainability system with thousands of sensors on the factory floor to collect real-time energy data. Stamas notes, “This data has helped us identify assets that are degrading in performance and thus consume excess energy, which triggers alerts and allows us to proactively identify and resolve cases of wasted energy. We can even create a condition-based preventive maintenance program.”

The asset sustainability system has also enabled Mohawk to do baseline analysis. “We collect real-time energy use with the sensors and compare that against our utility bills, report that information in the EAM system, and break down our assets to identify real opportunities,” Stamas declares.

Facts at a glance

Solution

Infor10 EAM

Industry

Process manufacturing

Country

USA

“Do we repair or replace? We can find out whether the cost of buying a more efficient motor is less than the energy we’re spending to run an old, inefficient motor. These business cases keep flowing out of the system.”

Comprehensive compliance reporting is another vital capability. “We can not only tout how we’ve reduced carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases, but also report on it in an accurate, reliable, and auditable way, which other systems can’t do,” Stamas asserts. “It provides the opportunity to attack a bigger slice of O&M by integrating energy—to optimize asset performance at the least energy cost and least environmental impact. To Mohawk, environmental performance equals financial performance.

“With Infor’s EAM Enterprise solution, we expect an additional 15% to 20% drop in energy consumption on top of the nearly 15% we’ve already realized with Infor10 EAM best-practice maintenance—a tremendous value that moves us forward in our socioeconomic goals.”

Infor10 EAM has helped Mohawk:

- Reduce energy consumption by nearly 15%, and confidently expect an additional 15% to 20% reduction.
- Perform baseline analysis to determine whether to repair or replace an asset.
- Do comprehensive compliance reporting on greenhouse gas reduction in an auditable way.

Doing business better

Mohawk believes it is moving into the final phase of asset sustainability maturity, focusing on continual asset improvement, evaluating the value chain to review the sustainability records of its business partners, and preventing problems. “With our paradigm shift from asset management to asset sustainability, we believe we can identify innovative business processes to further reduce our energy consumption,” says Stamas. “For us, sustainability means improved financial performance, enhancing our competitive advantage by creating new business opportunities and growth.”

About Infor.

Infor is a leading provider of business software and services, helping more than 70,000 customers in 164 countries improve operations and drive growth. To learn more about Infor, please visit www.infor.com.

Infor Corporate Headquarters
13560 Morris Road
Suite 4100
Alpharetta, Georgia 30004
USA
Phone: +1(800) 260 2640

www.infor.com

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