

7th Newsletter



CROSS-INNO-CUT
Cross border implementation of
innovative cost cutting
technologies

Project Partners

***Federation of Industries
of Northern Greece***

***Aristotle University of
Thessaloniki
URENIO Research Unit***

***South-West University
"Neofit Rilski"***

***Industries Association of
Eastern Macedonia***

***Federation of Industries
of Rhodopi***

***Industrial Association of
Petritch***

***Union of Industry and
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***Industrial Association
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***Federation of Industries
of Evros***

Activities of the Project: Action planning in the field of sensors, utilities and maintenance.

On 27th of December 2012, on-site audits were conducted by an URENIO expert accompanied by a representative of the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece to two major industries of Thrace as part of the formation of the action plans for implementation of cost cutting technologies in the fields of sensors, utilities and energy saving. The two industries selected from the results of the 1st phase audits were the “Thrace Mills” located at Alexandroupolis, Greece and the “Distillery – Winery of Thrace SA” located at Komotini, Greece.

In both cases extensive interviews of the respective Production Managers were conducted by the expert to identify the high cost areas of each case and a review by touring of the production area was made to obtain a better understanding of the problems identified so that the action plans can be formatted.

In both cases there were three major high cost areas identified: energy waste due to un-optimized operation of their compressed air systems, energy waste due to inefficient electrical power distribution systems and high cost of maintenance programs due to poor management. The fact that the three high cost areas identified were exactly the same in both cases, show and prove that the same generic problems exist in complete different industries with complete different products produced.

The respective action plans were formed and given to the project managing authority so that cost cutting solutions proposed in the plans can be implemented. For both cases of the industries audited the proposed solutions were the following:

- Implementation of an extensive ultrasound survey of the compressed air system using handheld sensing equipment to pinpoint the presence of leaks in the overall system. In the case of the Distillery – winery of Thrace this ultrasound survey was proposed to be accompanied by a thermal survey of all drain traps that exist in the system.
- Implementation of thermal analysis of the entire electrical power distribution system focusing on the electrical panels, circuit breakers, fuses and cabling of each case.
- Development of a software application with which all maintenance activities can be monitored, controlled and managed. For the case of Thrace Mills such a software application should have extensive features to enable interfacing with existing equipment sensors and data outlets.

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The proposed solutions could serve the following cost cutting activities:

- The ultrasound survey will reveal leaks in a compressed air system which are the main reason of the compressor operation in an not-optimized way and thus in high energy consumption as the compressor consumes more energy to keep levels of pressure and flow of air in desired levels.



- The thermal survey of the drain traps of the compressed air systems will reveal problem in their operation that lead either to air leaks or moisture moving towards to the served equipment causing malfunctions.



- The thermal survey of the electrical power distribution systems will reveal places of high temperature that are caused by faulty connections and equipment. Waste of electrical energy transforming into heat can be reduced by fixing the problematic areas.

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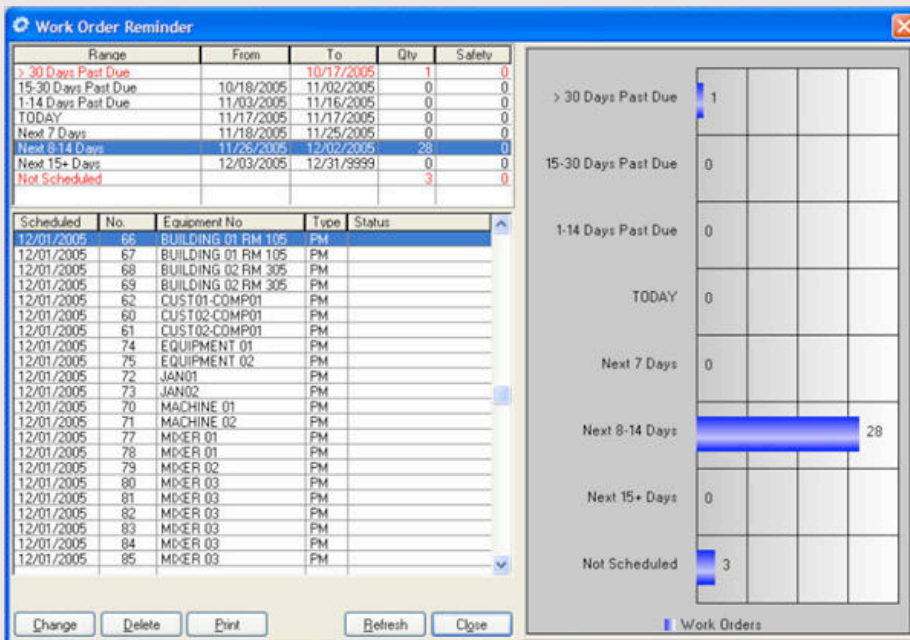
The development of a maintenance management software application will help both companies to run a more efficient, cost effective maintenance program.

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Applying the proposed solutions and conducting a cost-benefit analysis taking into account risks in the implementation that could reduce the overall benefits, showed that the financial benefits in both cases are such that both the ROI and the long term cash back is such that the cost reduction of the production area operation is significant. Also as the implementation is subsidized by the CROSS-INNO-CUT program, the benefits will be immediate.

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<http://www.cost-cutting.eu>
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