Gainesville Regional Utility Improves Productivity with AMS™ Suite: Intelligent Device Manager

RESULTS

- 50% reduction in time spent troubleshooting suspected valve problems
- 600 hours per year reduction in configuration, calibration, testing, device replacement, and valve diagnostics
- Efficient instrument maintenance with limited manpower

APPLICATION

An existing 48 MW steam unit was repowered by converting it to a combined cycle facility using a General Electric gas turbine and an ATS heat recovery steam generator to drive the existing steam turbine.

CUSTOMER

The Gainesville Regional Utility serves the central Florida region including the growing Gainesville community, home of the University of Florida.

CHALLENGE

During the latter design stages for the John R. Kelley Generating Station repower project, project engineers proposed installation of an AMS Device Manager predictive maintenance system as a means of continuously tracking the performance of new smart instrumentation and valves with a limited staff in the highly automated combined cycle facility. Engineering Manager Doug Beck challenged his design team to "prove the need to spend money for this purpose."

"This was money well spent; the AMS Device Manager has exceeded our expectations. From a management perspective, this software certainly increases productivity, and that's the bottom line in any business."

Doug Beck,
Engineering Manager for
Gainesville Regional Utility power plants.

AMS Suite

For more information:
www.assetweb.com

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SOLUTION

Senior control systems engineer Donny Thompson and instrumentation supervisor Terry Gordon, with help from personnel at Emerson's local business partner in Tampa were able to demonstrate the time and money saving potential of the predictive maintenance software to Beck's satisfaction. It was installed as a part of the repower project and has been in continuous use there for more than two years. The facility is also equipped with Rosemount 3051 transmitters, Micro Motion flowmeters, and valves equipped with FIELDVUE® digital valve controllers.

It was soon apparent to Thompson and Gordon that the "asset management software allows us to manage instrument maintenance, calibrate, and troubleshoot in an efficient manner with a limited staff. For example, the status of instruments on top of the seven-story heat recovery steam generator can be checked in just a few minutes versus the 30 minutes to an hour required by a technician on foot. With 150 field devices to look after, every minute we save is valuable."

Training of personnel to work with the AMS Device Manager software was a key factor in its quick acceptance by maintenance personnel, and that in turn helped the utility achieve its documented results.

Since the plant went into operation, the Emerson solution is saving technicians about 600 hours per year in device configuration, calibration, testing, device replacement, and valve diagnostics.

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AMS Suite: Intelligent Device Manager powers PlantWeb through predictive and proactive maintenance of intelligent field devices to improve availability and performance.

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