

Benlan Gets Down on Downtime

Productivity Increases 25% on Medical Packaging Equipment with Shoplogix Plantnode



CASE STUDY

benlan Inc.

Benlan Inc. is a medical device manufacturer specializing in disposable plastic products for the healthcare markets in Canada and the United States. The company operates a 100,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility in Oakville, Ontario; and manufactures molded and extruded medical components; as well as offering custom manufacturing, private label packaging, and their own MED-RX® line of products.

BUSINESS GOAL

Benlan needed to understand the capacity of their packaging machine, and needed a tool that would acquire usage data. According to Tom Enns, "While we could have obtained a proprietary solution from the equipment

manufacturer, we liked the fact that Plantnode is cost-effective, and can be used with our other plant equipment as well. We also liked the fact that it had a rich set of functionality that promised to provide a lot of value"

SOLUTION

In addition to providing comprehensive usage data for capacity planning and productivity trending, Plantnode provides email, voice mail or PDA alerts to one or more individuals, identifying when the machine reaches a replenishment threshold. This allows personnel to be on hand and immediately replenish supplies, significantly reducing downtime, and ensuring maximum productivity of both machine and people.

THE CHALLENGE

Benlan's packaging equipment was experiencing frequent and lengthy

periods of downtime, due primarily to material replenishment, which could occur as often as every hour. Benlan needed to find a way to reduce the downtime to improve productivity of the equipment. They also wanted to be able to proactively prepare to replenish before the machine started to idle.

UNKNOWN MACHINE CAPACITY HINDERED PLANNING

Benlan originally implemented Plantnode to assist in gathering information on the efficiency of one of their form-fill-seal packaging machines. According to Tom Enns, President of Benlan, "We needed a way to understand the capacity of our packaging equipment, particularly since new equipment has a lead time of six to eight months. Plantnode is already giving us good intelligence about how



The Numbers Speak for Themselves

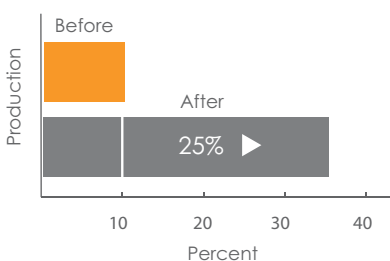
many of each type of product we can put through this machine in a given timeframe.

SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN PRODUCTIVITY AND DOWNTIME

Benlan found that Plantnode helped in two key areas – it has helped reduce machine downtime, which in turn has led to increased production throughput. Packaging equipment uses materials such as film, which must be regularly replenished, resulting in recurring machine downtime. Prior to implementing Plantnode, the equipment could idle for 10 or even 15 minutes each replenishment period waiting for a mechanic to be located to perform the replenishment. Now, with the automated alerting function of Plantnode, mechanics are notified by email or on their PDA when the machine is reaching near depletion of packaging materials.

Benlan Increases Production

Source: Benlan Inc. 2006



Benlan increases production by 25% since installing Shoplogix Plantnode

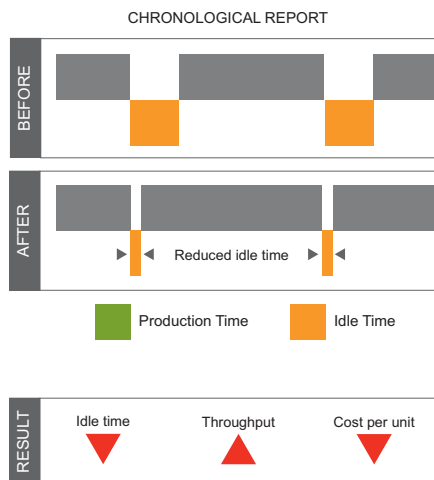
This has reduced replenishment downtime significantly - helping to increase production through this machine by 25%.

PLANTNODE PROVES EASY TO JUSTIFY

Mr. Enns stated, "Plantnode pays for itself within a few months, purely on the labor savings associated with the machine replenishment. When you factor in the increase in production, and our ability for improved capacity planning, it's easy to see the value of this product."

Benlan Obtains Tangible Value

Source: Benlan Inc. 2006



Shoplogix Plantnode proved its value by decreasing duration of downtime events with automatic proactive notifications. Idle time was reduced, throughput increased and cost per unit decreased as a result.

According to Dave Cobbold, Process Development Manager, "We still haven't finished exploring Plantnode's complete functionality but it has already significantly improved our process."

Operators respond faster to events and change over time was drastically reduced. We plan to implement on other packaging machines in the short term, and we're already discussing standardizing on Plantnode for all equipment on the plant floor."

PLANTNODE DELIVERS INTELLIGENT REAL-TIME PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ON THE PLANT FLOOR

Shoplogix Plantnode is an intelligent performance management system designed to increase operational efficiency, improve quality, and drive higher levels of performance in discrete manufacturing environments. Plantnode has proven effective in improving Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE), predictive and preventive maintenance, and quality initiatives across all industries.

Plantnode leverages existing investments in equipment and business systems to enable operational visibility and real-time information flow that is fast enough to be actionable, with the accuracy and reliability to facilitate strategic planning and tactical execution.



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