Optimising HSE compliance, uptime & cost control

Four key challenges asset managers in the food sector face and how EAM software can help overcome them.
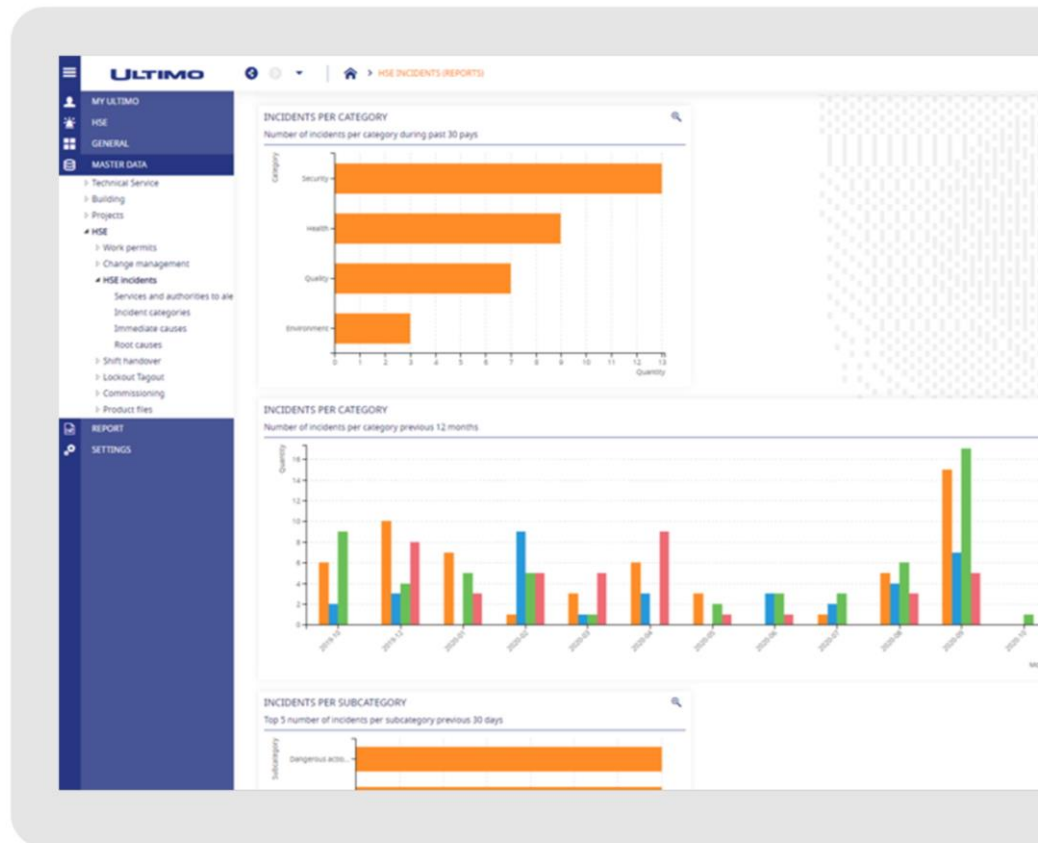
INTRO

MANAGING MAINTENANCE PROCESSES IN A FOOD PRODUCTION FACILITY, ESPECIALLY ACROSS MULTIPLE SITES, CAN BE AN ENORMOUS CHALLENGE. WITH HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT (HSE) COMPLIANCE CONSTANTLY UNDER SCRUTINY, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR ERROR WHEN IT COMES TO MEETING AUDIT REQUIREMENTS AND DEMONSTRATING COMPLIANCE. ANY FAILURE TO COMPLY CAN QUICKLY TRANSLATE INTO DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES IN THE SHAPE OF PRODUCT RECALLS AND PLANT CLOSURES.

YET, AT THE SAME TIME, YOU ARE UNDER PRESSURE TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY WHILE STAYING ON TOP OF ASSET HEALTH; TO AVOID ANY UNPLANNED DOWNTIME; TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY AND TO MEET PRODUCTION TARGETS – ALL WHILE KEEPING COSTS UNDER TIGHT CONTROL. IT'S A DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX BALANCING ACT.

TO REDUCE THIS COMPLEXITY, MANY FORWARD-THINKING COMPANIES LEVERAGE ENTERPRISE ASSET MANAGEMENT (EAM) SOLUTIONS TO MANAGE ALL THESE CRITICAL AREAS ON ONE PLATFORM, GAINING VITAL INSIGHT FROM THE DATA TO GUIDE THEIR OPERATION AND ENSURE THEY MAKE THE MOST OUT OF THEIR ASSETS IN THE SHORT AND LONG TERM.

THIS EBOOK LOOKS AT FOUR KEY CHALLENGES ASSET MANAGERS IN THE FOOD SECTOR FACE AND EXPLAINS HOW EAM SOFTWARE CAN HELP OVERCOME THEM.

WHAT IS EAM SOFTWARE?

An Enterprise Asset Management system, such as Ultimo, provides a single operational asset management platform for any food manufacturing organisation. Capable of being deployed on a single site or across a multi-site company, an EAM system helps asset managers achieve their goals. It can provide a central repository of asset data from which scheduled and planned maintenance can be organised to minimise downtime, efficiently and effectively managing each asset's whole life cycle, from deployment to decommissioning.

1. SIMPLIFYING HSE COMPLIANCE

With food safety failures often widely publicised, it is no wonder that ensuring safety and adherence to regulation is a top concern for asset managers in the sector. Any incidents can have far-reaching consequences, often resulting in irreversible damage to consumer confidence and, in the worst case, business closures. That's why it is vital to ensure due care is taken during maintenance tasks to minimise the risk to the products.

Using EAM software to manage these critical tasks can help enhance safety, optimise compliance and bring peace of mind during audits.

Ultimo's EAM platform integrates HSE management and asset management in one system, which signals the condition and status of assets in real-time. Crucially, it not only sets HSE processes out but also helps enforce them: tasks can only proceed once all required safety procedures have been completed and recorded, minimising any risks to food safety, workers or assets. What's more, the digital log of every maintenance action taken makes it easy to manage safety requirements and prove compliance to regulation during audits or investigations.

2. PROTECTING UPTIME

Safeguarding uptime with timely maintenance is at the heart of every asset management operation, regardless of the industry. With downtime estimated to cost, on average, £180,000/ €213,000 per hour across the manufacturing industry in general, it is clear to see that even short shutdowns can have a severe impact on profitability. However, the nature of the products in the food sector, together with tight production deadlines, can quickly cause the effect of any unplanned downtime to escalate, creating widespread disruption down the supply chain.

EAM systems help protect uptime by providing you with the data you need to make well-informed decisions about maintenance, so you can take action where and when required to minimise disruption.

With the right data, you have better control over the health of your assets, allowing you to mitigate potential risk factors and perform the appropriate maintenance activities at the right time to secure your operation. Leveraging EAM can help any organisation move towards more intelligent maintenance models, regardless of the level they are at currently. This can mean simply moving from reactive maintenance towards a more proactive approach or using the latest IoT technologies to enable risk-based maintenance.

3. CONTROLLING COSTS

In order to make cost-effective plans regarding an asset's maintenance and potential replacement, you need reliable data that covers its operation and service history. Manual service records, or the lack of any details of maintenance action taken, can make it hard to see how the costs relate to each asset. Analysing the data for any trends to indicate its health is even more difficult, making it nearly impossible to effectively plan any corrective action, increasing the risk of unplanned downtime.

EAM provides you with the data you need to keep track of the costs of each asset, making it easy to identify inefficient maintenance practices and underperforming assets. You gain better control over your maintenance budget, as you can quickly identify cost-intensive assets and view every maintenance action associated with them. Moreover, having access to reliable data on your assets' health is also essential for benchmarking performance, setting realistic goals and planning strategic improvements to further reduce costs.

4. IMPROVING RESILIENCE

The challenges many manufacturers experienced during the Covid19 pandemic have highlighted the importance of having robust maintenance processes in place to protect assets, and the overall production capacity, during unprecedented times. With many facilities forced to close unexpectedly due to Covid outbreaks among the staff or supply chain issues, the operators with well-planned processes, remote capabilities and digital management strategies had a clear advantage.

Using an EAM system will help future-proof operations to enable better resiliency and a more flexible response to unplanned events. Having a mobile and connected solution with a digital record of all maintenance issues and the actions taken to resolve them streamlines how maintenance tasks are carried out and monitored. Furthermore, having all maintenance data stored in the cloud where it can be accessed remotely at any time improves the way knowledge is shared and retained within the organisation, making it easier to successfully adapt to unexpected situations.

CONCLUSION

FROM TICKING ALL THE BOXES IN FOOD SAFETY AUDITS TO ADAPTING PRODUCTION LINES TO MEET CHANGES IN DEMAND, OPERATORS IN THE FOOD SECTOR HAVE A LOT ON THEIR MIND. IMPLEMENTING AN EAM SYSTEM WILL HELP REDUCE THE COMPLEXITY, ENABLING YOU TO PLAN BETTER AND WORK MORE EFFICIENTLY. YOU GAIN PEACE OF MIND THAT THE SYSTEM NOT ONLY TRACKS, BUT ALSO ENFORCES, COMPLIANCE TO ESSENTIAL HSE REGULATION, HELPING ENSURE THAT YOU ARE ALWAYS AUDIT-READY. MOREOVER, BY PROVIDING YOU WITH RELIABLE DATA ON YOUR ASSETS' PERFORMANCE, AN EAM SYSTEM GIVES YOU MORE CONTROL OVER YOUR ENTIRE MAINTENANCE OPERATION. YOU HAVE THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO MAKE WELL-PLANNED DECISIONS TO PROTECT UPTIME, CONTROL COSTS AND FUTURE-PROOF YOUR ASSETS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

TO FIND OUT MORE OR REQUEST A DEMO, VISIT WWW.ULTIMO.COM.

SEE VITAL SIGNS.
TAKE VITAL ACTION.

Ultimo is the number one flexible EAM Cloud platform that gives you control over your asset management; helps you increase uptime, manage the costs and extend the life span of your assets; provides you with reliable control information; helps you meet laws and regulations; and helps you ensure a safe and healthy working environment. And with an unmatched and proven ROI. With Ultimo you see vital signs and you take vital actions.

Live-link your assets and facilities.

sales@ultimo.com | ultimo.com

ULTIMO

BELGIUM

Ultimo Software Solutions bv
Schaliënhoevedreef 20A
2800 Mechelen
T +32 15 44 41 44

GERMANY

Ultimo Software Solutions GmbH
Lohbergstraße 20A
46537 Dinslaken
T +49 2064 82 84 754

THE NETHERLANDS

Ultimo Software Solutions bv
Waterweg 3
8071 RR Nunspeet
T +31 341 42 37 37

UNITED KINGDOM

Ultimo Software Solutions Ltd
Room 202
111 Piccadilly
Manchester M1 2HY
T +44 161 615 36 85

Silver
Microsoft
Partner

QUALITY SYSTEM CERTIFICATION
DNV·GL
ISO 9001:2015

INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
DNV·GL
ISO/IEC 27001:2013