

Optimizing collaboration with the Operations Suite



Introduction

Companies that avoid downtime operate more efficiently and profitably. The statement is as simple as it is true, and applies across sectors, from Food and Chemicals to Pharma and Utilities.

Increase productivity and minimizing downtime

However, keeping the operation running smoothly 24/7 is a challenge, with the majority of organizations experiencing significant unplanned downtime. For small businesses, this can cost anywhere from \$137 to \$427 per minute. Larger companies take an even bigger hit, with downtime costing over \$16,000 per minute for just a short outage.

This whitepaper examines these challenges and how IFS Ultimo Operations Suite increases productivity while minimizing downtime.



IFS Ultimo has helped break down silos in our organization. The platform helps us all work better together."

Improving efficiency and productivity with Ultimo Enterprise Asset Management

Ultimo is a flexible cloud-based Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) system. The software helps companies leverage operational data to enable better informed maintenance decisions that help increase productivity, reduce downtime, and optimize asset lifecycles. By simplifying knowledge-sharing between different departments, Ultimo helps plant operators, maintenance teams, process owners, and safety and quality teams enhance the way they collaborate, manage risks and control costs.

Ultimo's EAM platform is scalable, quick and easy to implement, and the data is accessible on any laptop or mobile device. The Operations Suite is part of the Ultimo EAM platform and designed to bridge the gap between production and maintenance, with dedicated modules for shift handover, autonomous maintenance and downtime analysis.

Sharing responsibility, reducing maintenance costs

Well-maintained assets are critical to a smooth operation, with most asset managers ranking uptime, efficiency, and cost control as their most important KPIs.



Lack of collaboration

There remains plenty of room for improvement, with sub-optimal communication, inconsistent processes, and siloed data limiting the value the business is able to extract from the information it generates. For many asset managers, a lack of collaboration across the company is a critical impediment.

Centralized and readily available data

Often, data relative to asset condition, maintenance tasks, and necessary repairs are stored in Excel spreadsheets, paper-based lists, or only in the heads of the people responsible, impeding information-sharing between departments.

Centralized and readily available data is imperative to the decision-making process, and must be accessible to all stakeholders responsible for the condition of operational assets. IFS Ultimo can help, providing dedicated modules for shift handover, autonomous maintenance, and downtime analysis within the Operation Suite.

Shift Handover: The digital events log

What happened during the last shift? Were problems identified and corrective action taken? Does the equipment require maintenance or repairs, and have plans already been put in place?

The IFS Ultimo shift handover module is a digital logbook for recording vital information about the assets and facility. It is not limited to the exchange between shifts and teams: it can also be used to record instructions for the next shift or highlight issues that need to be raised with the technical or safety departments. Shift handover is integrated with other IFS Ultimo modules such as work order management and HSE/OHSE.

The integration ensures that all information relating to the assets is available companywide and that actions and incidents are well documented. This results in clear, traceable processes, consistent documentation, and a more accurate overview of asset condition and health.



More efficient maintenance management

Optimizing productivity is a goal shared by maintenance staff, process managers and plant operators. However, the perspective can differ significantly between departments.

Production managers: Demand the highest possible operational availability, while attributing asset failure to insufficient maintenance.

Maintenance managers: Attribute downtime to operator failure, limited opportunities to perform preventive maintenance, and inadequate budgets.

Process managers/HSE Departments: Associate downtime with poor communication and transparency between departments.

With so many different perspectives, teams become frustrated and dissatisfied, which may further impact productivity and safety.

IFS Ultimo provides autonomous maintenance capabilities for shared responsibilities, integrating operations and maintenance teams, while simplifying compliance with industry and government regulations.

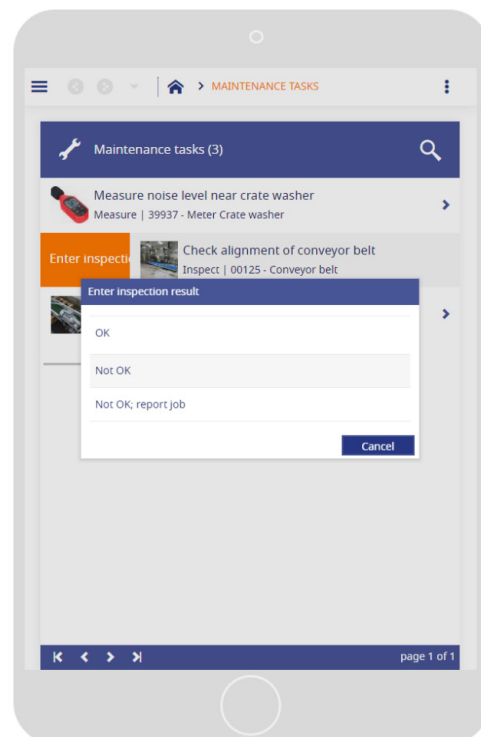
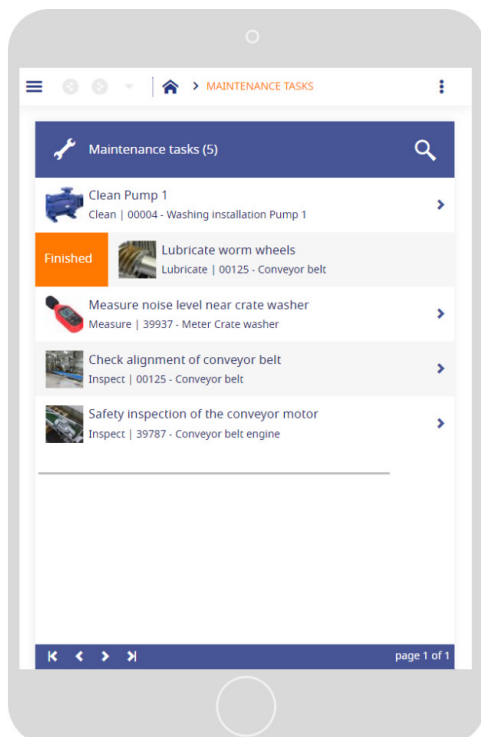
Operational and strategic

IFS Ultimo provides a quick and easy way to record actions and observations, including checklists, visual instructions, and related documentation in support of compliance requirements.

With shared responsibilities, plant operators have insight to maintenance management, with insights to improvements in uptime, profitability, and lower maintenance costs. Maintenance managers are able to free up capacity for longer term, future-facing maintenance work, supported by operator training and development.

The IFS Ultimo autonomous maintenance module enables reporting that supports the operational and strategic aspects of the business, including when duties are carried out—and if not, why.

IFS Ultimo cultivates greater cooperation between all teams and employees. It enhances safety, increases productivity, and improves satisfaction across the operation.



Cost control for well-informed decisions

While asset managers rank unplanned downtime as a significant issue, few are able to assign an accurate cost to the organization. This lack of insight makes it difficult to control costs and plan maintenance appropriately.

With IFS Ultimo, downtime is recorded, clearly displayed, and analyzed using Power BI Integration. Plant operators understand why failures occur, the actions taken before and after an incident, an overview of costs incurred, and how the operation was restored.

The planning of maintenance activities is simplified, reducing production losses. Similar to shift handover and autonomous maintenance, downtime analysis is integrated within all of the modules within the Operations Suite.



Increased productivity and profitability with the IFS Ultimo Operations Suite

Machine downtime and operational breakdowns are stressful incidents for everyone involved. Teams with standardized, easy-to-implement processes are better placed to make well-planned, data-driven decisions to ensure that production is resumed quickly and cost-effectively.

Optimal efficiency

The result is optimal efficiency, improved productivity, and a better experience for the operators, maintenance teams, process owners, and company management.

Eliminate the data silos

The IFS Ultimo Operations Suite helps eliminate the data silos and communication gaps between departments, empowering with the operation.

Enhanced availability of machinery and equipment, a safer working environment, and better cooperation between different teams and departments. IFS Ultimo provides companies with valuable data to facilitate the best possible operational and strategic decisions now and in the future.

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About IFS Ultimo

IFS Ultimo is a SaaS EAM solution from IFS, focused on maintenance & safety and well known for a rapid deployment, ease of use and an unparalleled time to value. Details about IFS Ultimo can be found at [Ultimo.com](https://www.ultimo.com).

About IFS

IFS develops and delivers cloud enterprise software for companies around the world who manufacture and distribute goods, build and maintain assets, and manage service-focused operations. Within our single platform, our industry specific products are innately connected to a single data model and use embedded digital innovation so that our customers can be their best when it really matters to their customers—at the Moment of Service™. The industry expertise of our people and of our growing ecosystem, together with a commitment to deliver value at every single step, has made IFS a recognized leader and the most recommended supplier in our sector. Our team of 5,000 employees every day live our values of agility, trustworthiness and collaboration in how we support our 10,000+ customers. Learn more about how our enterprise software solutions can help your business today at [ifs.com](https://www.ifs.com).

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