

# Reduce maintenance costs

## Fiber-production plants cut maintenance hours in half

ABB Full Service® team dramatically reduces maintenance costs for four fiber-production plants.

“ABB does not only have a large know-how in maintenance, but also stands out for high flexibility and promptness,” says Christian Klöss, Head of Production, Johns Manville.



Werk Bobingen industrial park, Munich, Germany

When ABB won its third Full Service® maintenance agreement with four companies in the Werk Bobingen industrial park near Munich, Germany, the businesses had many reasons for choosing ABB. However, one of the most important was that with ABB, over a ten-year period all of the companies have significantly reduced their equipment and building maintenance costs. Maintenance hours have been cut in half at the four plants while production had increased.

### Ensuring smooth production

In 1999, after changing its business strategy, the Hoechst Group turned its 710,000 square meter plant in Bobingen, Germany, into an industrial park. Four companies that manufacture polyester fibers moved in including Trevira, GmbH, Johns Manville, GmbH, Performance Fibers, GmbH and Teijin Monofilament Germany, GmbH.

Although each company has its own specialty, together they produce 160,000 tons of polyester fibers per year. The fibers are used in textile applications, including fabrics for furniture, clothes and cars, and technical applications such as tents, safety belts, zippers, roofing, filters and tire reinforcement.

Each of the plants depends on the industrial park's infrastructure for services like repair work, maintenance and energy. From the start, the companies wanted to maximize overall plant performance. To accomplish this, they needed reliable, expert equipment maintenance provided with quick response time. The plants wanted their operations to run as efficiently as possible by minimizing maintenance costs and keeping equipment downtime minimal.

# ABB Full Service® team dramatically reduces maintenance costs at Werk Bobingen industrial park

**ABB signed a Full Service agreement with the four companies at Werk Bobingen in 1999 and renewed it in 2003 and 2009. Along with providing service, the ABB team analyzes process and efficiency indicators, so they can fine-tune maintenance and repair work.**

Over the past 10 years at Werk Bobingen, ABB has:

- Significantly reduced each plant's maintenance costs
- Cut the companies' equipment maintenance hours in half, resulting in increased plant production
- Increased Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) by substantially reducing downtime
- Reduced the size of warehoused stock at each company by 25%
- Improved customer satisfaction

## **Identifying client needs**

ABB worked closely with Trevira, Performance Fibers, Johns Manville and Teijin, to determine the companies' ongoing maintenance needs. To ensure customer satisfaction, ABB developed a system that assessed each job performed for the plants. As a result, the ABB maintenance team could quickly evaluate their work, identify any aspect that needed to be improved or optimized, and immediately make adjustments. The team also holds regular meetings with personnel on all levels at the four companies to exchange information and stay current on client needs.

## **A multi-pronged approach for improving maintenance**

During the partnership, ABB installed a Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) to plan and document all work performed at the industrial park. CMMS also analyzes repairs to improve maintenance strategy.

ABB improved OEE for the four companies by shortening downtimes. The ABB team ensured that the plants had a reliable supply of pressurized air, energy, steam and water, which all play an important role in end-product quality.

ABB used Health, Safety and Environment to enhance their performance on-site. ABB is certified in SCC, ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, giving personnel the experience and expertise to meet a wide range of maintenance and repair situations.

## **Delivering high-quality service**

The ABB team solidified their close working relationships with personnel at Trevira, Performance Fibers, Johns Manville and Teijin, by providing fast service, reliable performance and innovative solutions.

To optimize the plants' maintenance, ABB provides:

- Maintenance of production plants and infrastructure
- Maintenance of buildings with associated services
- Energy generation and distribution as well as logistics services, both on- and off-site
- Engineering for production improvements
- A center for training and education
- Centralization and automation to reduce warehouse stock

Along with providing maintenance services, ABB has helped the Werk Bobingen industrial companies improve their financial performance, worked with plant personnel to create a service culture and transformed the maintenance function into a profit center.