

Process improvements and cost reduction through reliability enhancements at US chemical plant

“Forming a partnership with ABB, we have accomplished production performance improvement and reduced maintenance costs. Our results are a continuing and sustainable process that will pay lasting dividends.”

Maintenance Manager, US Chemical Plant

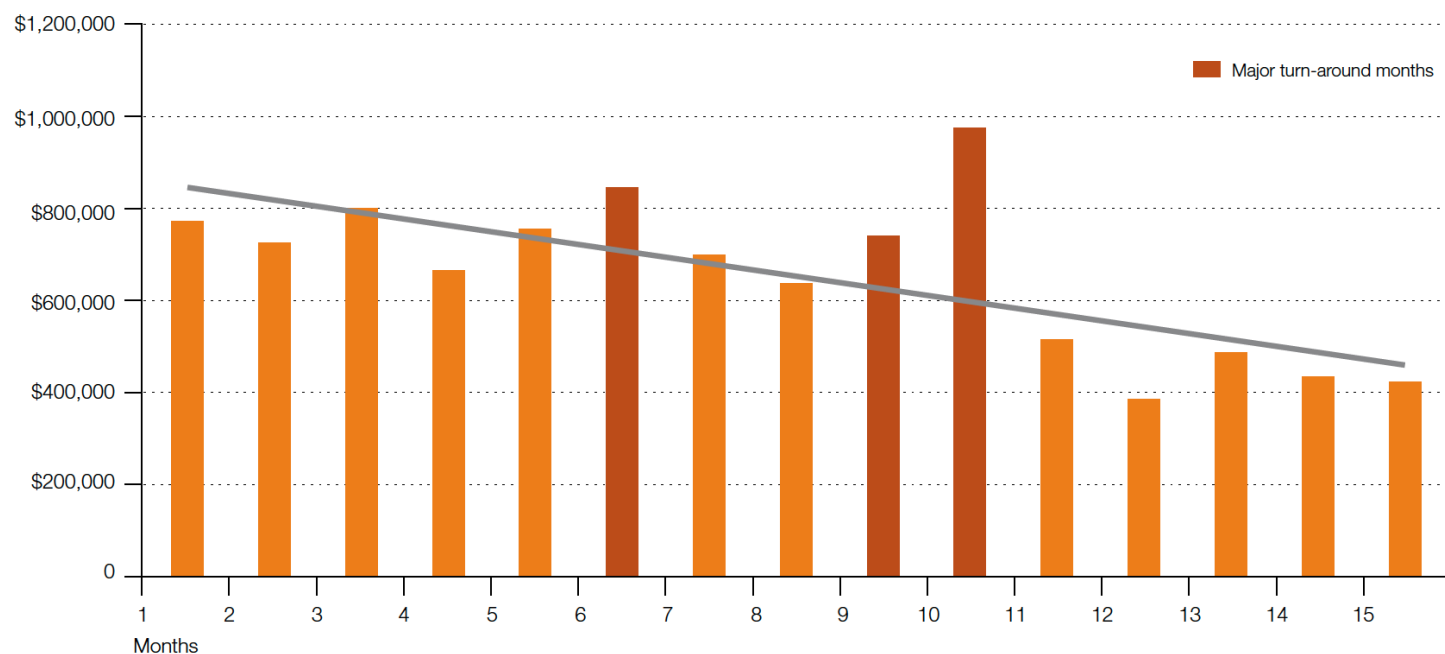
Business Challenge

Although a Southeast chemical plant was well-staffed, had high equipment productivity and was growing, the operating costs in an increasingly competitive market were reducing profit margins. High production levels were funded by high maintenance costs due to emergency change-outs, poor reliability and less than optimal asset life. Core repair maintenance work was completed by contractors, and plant reliability was more attributable to new equipment than strong reliability practices.

Solution

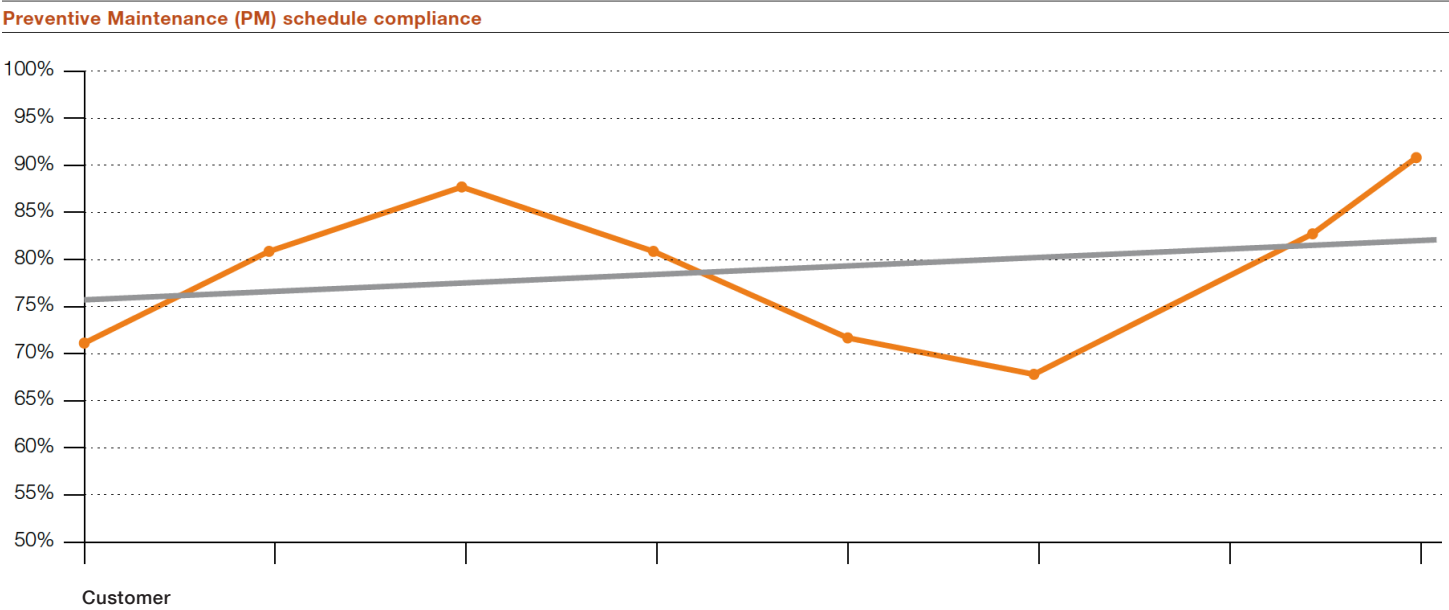
ABB Reliability Consulting was selected to work with plant personnel in improving performance. By combining an internally developed assessment process with ABB's process and database, the plant began identifying improvement opportunities. A multi-year plan was created, with a focus on linking core competencies with documented processes and procedures. In addition, a decision was made to convert those contractors working in critical areas to employee status.

Third-party maintenance labor expenses



This graph shows reduced third-party maintenance labor expenses (Chemical Plant, Southeastern USA)

Customer



This graph shows improved Preventive Maintenance compliance (Chemical Plant, Southeastern USA)