

Orbit Magazine

Case Study :: Turbine Material Loss

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CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY :: Turbine Material Loss

An example of how GE helps customers in the Oil & Gas industry.

GE engineers and System 1* software provide essential support during turbine material loss.

GE's System 1 software was instrumental in diagnosing a critical turbine issue at one of India's largest privately-owned oil producers, preventing unplanned downtime and loss of production. The customer's site has a Supporting Service Agreement (SSA), GE's System 1 software and three resident GE engineers.

PROBLEM

In January of 2015, the customer experienced a vibration alarm on one of its steam-turbine-

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driven boiler feed water pumps. Multiple restarts were attempted, with a high vibration alarm tripped each time. GE's resident engineers were asked to use System 1 data to determine the root cause.

SOLUTION

Upon analyzing System 1 data, the resident engineers observed that vibration levels on all radial proximity probes suddenly increased within milliseconds. The historical data showed that there were no abnormal vibration levels before the initial incident. Based on the data, GE engineers were able to determine that there had been a sudden material loss from the turbine. An inspection was recommended immediately.

The turbine rotor inspection revealed material loss—the turbine had lost two rotor blades and broken the shroud. The rotor blades and shroud were repaired before any further damage occurred.

PAYBACK

By repairing the turbine before additional damage occurred, the customer avoided lengthy unplanned downtime and loss of production. System 1's Event Manager High Resolution Data Collection and Storage feature gave GE engineers current and reliable data to correctly and quickly provide the customer with a solution.

Based on GE's System 1 data and an accurate diagnosis of the problem, the customer was able to save over \$75,000 USD.

BENEFITS

- Rapid diagnosis of problem and ability to isolate root cause – substantially reduces need for unplanned downtime and loss of production.
- Helps reduce machinery failure severity – by continuously monitoring critical parameters and alerting operators to problems before they progress to catastrophic failures.
- Enables timely and informed decisions – through careful analysis of reliable and accurate condition data

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