



Empowering ERP Asset Management Solutions

**Metals Manufacturer
Upgrades Work
Planning and
Scheduling**

*VIZIYA WorkAlign Scheduler fills
the gaps in asset management
software*

When a major U.S. metals manufacturer rolled out a new ERP and EAM system corporate-wide, some critical work planning and scheduling capabilities were lost. The impact was significant. In a single business unit alone, nearly 220,000 assets are housed across twelve sites and approximately 300,000 work orders have to be scheduled annually with maximum efficiency and effectiveness. At the same time, the industry as a whole was facing cost pressures, furthering the challenge to optimize productivity, utilization, and cost efficiencies.

After struggling with various workarounds for a period of time, the manufacturer found a solution in VIZIYA WorkAlign Scheduler.

eAM scheduler had limitations

Following the global deployment of Oracle Enterprise Asset Management (eAM), updates to work orders, operations and resources had to be made on a one-off basis, resulting in considerable additional demand on the planners' time. Oracle eAM's embedded Workbenches did not allow the maintenance planners to interface with the work orders in bulk. Each ad hoc work order had to be scheduled separately, which might seem reasonable on a smaller scale, but for a company of this magnitude, the process was unmanageable. In addition, the manufacturer uses the software's routine scheduling and work template capabilities, which are similarly affected.

The planners and schedulers developed workarounds to help manage their large volume of work using a combination of Oracle Discoverer, eAM Self Service, and Forms. However, they were still constrained by having to manipulate the Discoverer output and manually update the work order content and plan in eAM. The temporary fix smoothed the process somewhat, but it still took too long and was very inefficient.

For this particular business unit, large systems of equipment are taken out of service and refurbished during an overhaul. In order to have the costs of repair reporting to the specific equipment being repaired, it was necessary to build a hierarchy of work orders to manage the process. In these instances, a maintenance plan was built by associating work orders to each other and laying them out in stages for implementation. If, however, the project schedule changed, the planners had to manually reschedule the relationships between all of the work orders. They also needed to work within the constraints of Oracle's calendar validation, which works at the work order level.

To eliminate these complexities, the metals manufacturer needed a single, more effective user interface for work planning and scheduling, with mass edit capability and the ability to receive real-time feedback of scheduling efficiency.

“Our goal is to minimize the number of hours being worked by our crafts people while accelerating the delivery of maintenance activity.” – Metals Manufacturer

Scheduling tool fills the void

Although the manufacturer did not actively seek a new solution, it discovered VIZIYA. VIZIYA is a software company that solves big problems for ERP asset management users. VIZIYA WorkAlign Scheduler is a web-based, bolt-on maintenance scheduling tool that is tightly coupled with major ERP/EAM systems including Oracle. VIZIYA showed how Oracle eAM's live work order backlog is viewable from WorkAlign Scheduler, where planners and schedulers can easily manipulate large amounts of data and accomplish more work in a shorter period of time. When the finished schedules are posted back to Oracle eAM, the maintenance activity begins.

Following the demonstration, the manufacturer decided to deploy the solution at one location initially, but ultimately rolled it out across the entire business unit due to highly favorable feedback from the practitioners.

Metals Manufacturer reaps rewards

The metals manufacturer is realizing a number of benefits from the VIZIYA WorkAlign Scheduler implementation, including:

Planning efficiency: The software is easier to use than Oracle's scheduler and the associated workarounds. It saves time and makes the planner's life more stable and less demanding. Planners can focus on the content of work orders rather than trying to manipulate them individually or do one-by-one edits on multiple work orders generated out of the PM forecast.

Scheduling efficiency: The speed and efficiency of scheduling and rescheduling is their current greatest benefit. Using the VIZIYA solution, schedulers can view, filter, and assign staffing in large chunks. For major, around-the-clock overhauls, they are no longer limited by Oracle's calendar validation that prevents 8-hour resources from being scheduled for more than 8-hour days. Additionally, with their new calendar capability, work timing and durations are automatically recalculated as they proceed through the overhaul.

Resource utilization: Shifts, crews, and crafts are allocated as efficiently as possible with the WorkAlign Scheduler. Additionally, the planners and schedulers spend less time at the computer, increasing their ability to devote time to the development and optimization of work scopes for the shop floor. Overall, the manufacturer's average man hours per unit of production is steadily improving through the use of multiple efficiency improvements, including the WorkAlign Scheduler (Figure 1).

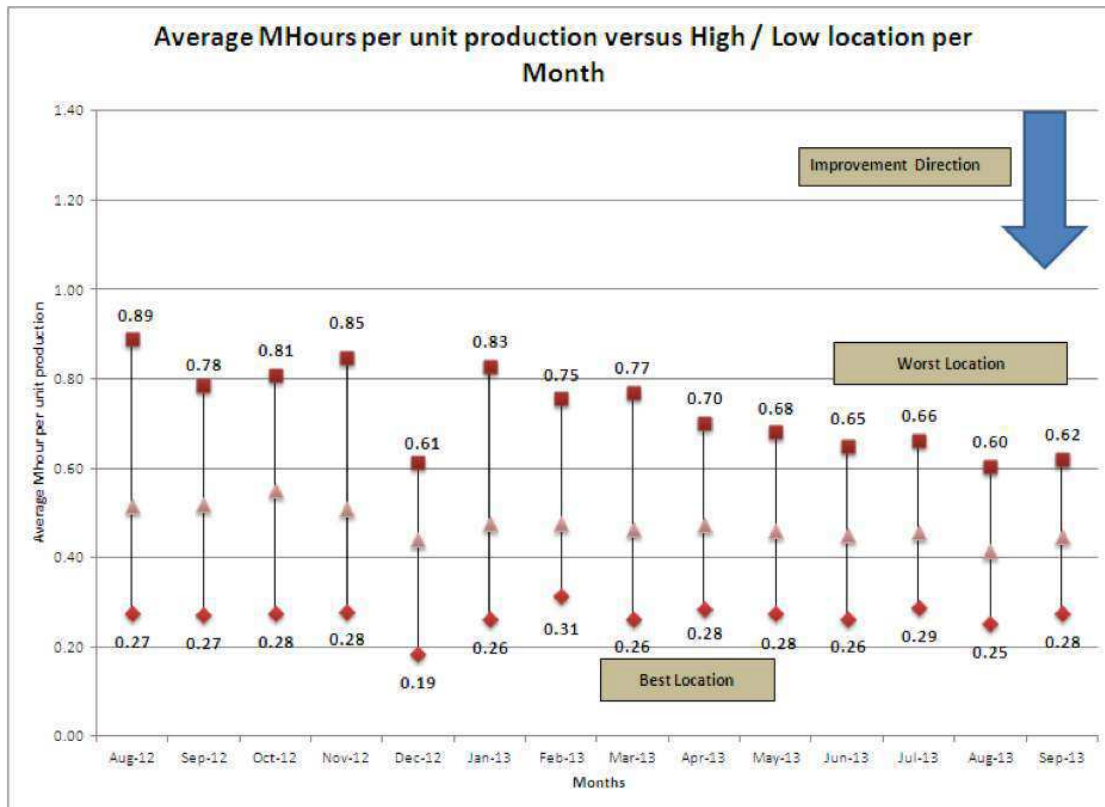
Cost savings: Greater resource utilization lessens the dependency on expensive overtime and contractors. The WorkAlign Scheduler implementation contributed to a significant reduction in these two costly components of maintenance.

Improved visibility: VIZIYA helps to provide the transparency necessary to prevent planning and scheduling issues such as over- or under-utilized resources or overlooked work orders. The software offers reporting and workload analysis capabilities to enhance performance, and it provides real-time feedback for workforce optimization.

Equipment uptime: Consistently executing well-planned jobs improves the equipment, which makes it more reliable and increases uptime.

Integrated solution: WorkAlign Scheduler is already fully integrated with Oracle ERP and eAM, so no custom interfaces were required. The data is shared seamlessly and in real time between systems. Because the software looks and feels like an Oracle module, user training is simplified. Furthermore, the solution is able to interface with standard external applications such as spreadsheets and project software.

Services and support: The metals manufacturer found VIZIYA's services and support to be "quite good." Regular month-end meetings are conducted to walk through any issues. If technical concerns are identified, they are diagnosed and resolved quickly.



Maintenance productivity trend shows improvement

The chart above illustrates how the WorkAlign Scheduler implementation, combined with other maintenance and reliability initiatives, is resulting in greater workforce productivity for the metals manufacturer. It has realized a marked decline in the average number of maintenance man hours per unit of production at its problem locations, while maintaining very favorable ratios at its best locations.



About VIZIYA

Headquartered in Hamilton, ON, with offices in Barcelona, Perth, Atlanta and Dubai, VIZIYA is the industry leader providing bolt-on software products to enhance ERP-based asset maintenance systems. VIZIYA's proprietary WorkAlign™ Product Suite delivers seamless integration into existing ERP systems. With over 45,000 users at 740 sites across 6 continents, the world's best companies use VIZIYA products to help them better maintain their assets. Visit viziya.com for more information.