Increase Asset Uptime with Agile MRO Management

"

50% of annual unscheduled asset downtime can be attributed to the lack of spare parts and stock-outs. Best-in-class companies are **79%** more likely than all others to have the ability to predict, maintain, and plan the inventory level of spare parts."

INTRODUCTION

Never underestimate the critical role of maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO) parts in your maintenance management software program. Spare parts availability directly impacts the success of managing MTBR (mean time to repair), MTBF (mean time between failures), and other maintenance management key performance indicators.

With the exception of critical spares, most MRO supplies are not high-cost items. However, without them, your assets and production line can sit idle while waiting for the part to arrive.

The good news is that the visibility and management of critical spares and MRO procurement signifies the low-hanging fruit of operational excellence. Investing in a CMMS that includes a robust MRO management system is an easily accessible savings opportunity.

INVENTORY MANAGEMENT AND BEYOND

Smarter MRO management contributes to reduced timelines for completing maintenance and repairs and facilitates the quantification of operational costs for Operations and Finance leadership.

Consider the opportunities for improvement within the following scenario. Routine maintenance requires trips to the supply room or vending machine looking for required parts and materials. As part of this process, wasted time occurs if parts are unavailable, during the hunt for the part in the supply room, or while waiting for the supply room attendant to pick items.

Seamlessly integrated, computerized maintenance management software (CMMS), inventory management, and procurement systems support lean process improvement while saving time in every step. Together, they allow you to:

Identify Work Order Requirements

Check required MRO inventory remotely or from your desktop in real-time at the time the work order is created. You can know where the parts are as well as the availability.

Know Exactly Where To Get a Part

When the work order is assigned or while at point-of-use, leverage mobile devices to help locate all the required MRO materials, whether they are in a supply room, cabinet, or vending machine. Integrating vending inventory into the overall view of inventory is critical to saving time while trying to find the right part.

Send a Pick List in Advance

Eliminate wait-time by requisitioning in-stock items, creating a pick list (internal packing list), automatically reserving items, and having them staged and waiting. This capability allows you to support lean processes with no additional overhead.
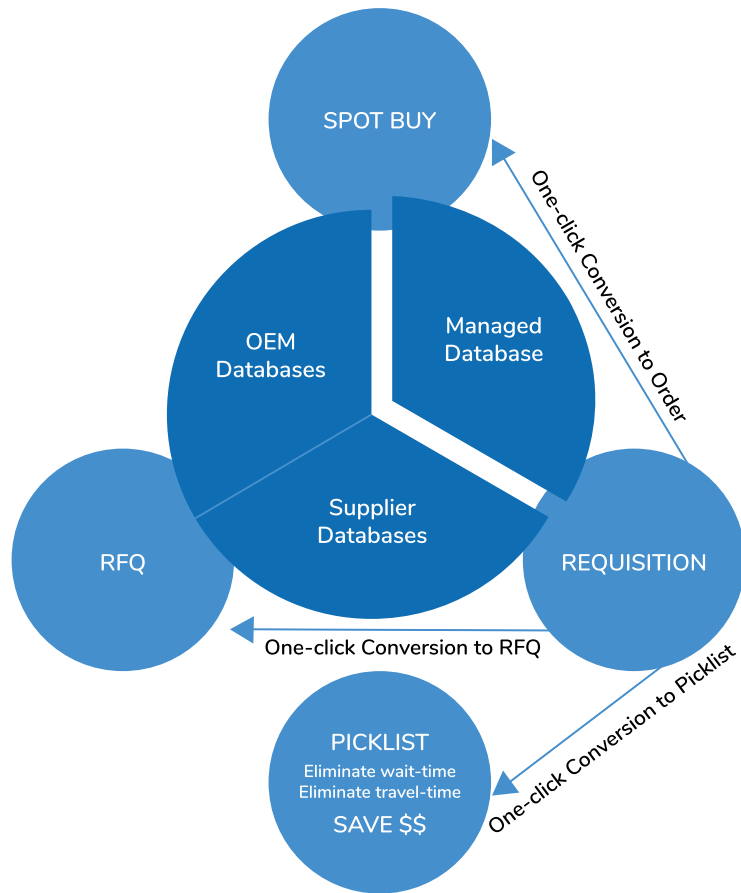
Source in a Stock-Out

Simply stated, stock-outs result in asset outages. Stock-outs are easily avoidable with automated replenishment configured into an integrated procurement and inventory system. If a one-off purchase is needed for a repair, systems which provide visibility into historical vendor quotes and point-of-use access to both supplier catalogs and OEM parts catalog will speed up one-off ordering. When an inventory management system supports supplier catalog uploads and access to OEM parts databases, one can always find the best price by linking the part numbers with the various supplier catalogs, allowing for price comparisons within the system.

Empower the Plant Floor to Close the Deal

Empower your maintenance team to be able to identify and purchase what they need by leveraging designated preferred suppliers and built-in spending limits in an integrated system. Inventory visibility drives good decision-making. If the parts required for a work order are not in stock, allow the maintenance team to take the logical next step by initiating a requisition directly from the CMMS. Order creation directly from requisition means no re-keying or copying/pasting, no separate system logins to a procurement or e-commerce system, and no emailing requests to purchasing. In a best-in-class system, built-in communications and automated event-notification keep everyone in the loop.

Increased visibility and empowerment are changes to business operations that can prove challenging to organizations. To strike a balance between empowerment and maintaining financial controls, it is critical that integrated procurement systems include pre-defined employee level purchasing limits and approval mechanisms. Beyond standard reporting on purchasing transactions, all data in an MRO inventory and purchasing system should be readily available to corporate enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems to provide enterprise-wide accountability.

CONCLUSION

Intelligent MRO inventory management integrated with CMMS and procurement delivers maintenance and inventory efficiency, cost management, and purchasing controls. However, CMMS, inventory management, and purchasing systems exist as silos, and integrating them can be costly.

For a cost-effective solution, look for a fully integrated software suite that is feature-rich while providing the option and flexibility to easily integrate with your existing systems to ensure all data is available for corporate reporting and analytics. Additionally, your choice should be complementary with existing solutions—evolutionary, not revolutionary—to speed adoption, buy-in, and ROI on the implementation.

If you're looking for a fully integrated CMMS that combines maintenance management with real-time visibility into MRO inventory and procurement, we have the solution for you. Our software allows you to eliminate operational silos, streamline repair and maintenance processes, and maintain financial control. To achieve operational excellence by investing in lean integrated maintenance and supply processes, choose Tofino.

Contact Us Now

tofino