Advancing a connected workforce strategy

Modern distillers at the intersection of art and science are evolving a linear production environment into a circular, digital journey







Benefits of Field Xpert SMT70B

- Technician safety
- Easily connect to Endress+Hauser and third-party devices
- Automate reporting and documenting plant service and maintenance activities
- Hybrid connectivity between on-premises and cloud services
- Compliance with a modern and centralized IT strategy



Summary By adopting digital tools and proactive maintenance strategies, a modern distiller transformed its operations, achieving significant ROI through time savings and safety.

Challenge Historically, the distiller's maintenance technicians used spreadsheets to document all plant activities, combining work orders and ISA spec sheets. This process involved using multi-meters, laptops, modems and manuals, taking notes in the field and completing formal reports back at the maintenance shop. The team struggled with inefficiencies and the time-consuming nature of this process. Additionally, distillery personnel were tasked with climbing tanks or accessing tight spaces, which were potential safety hazards.

Solution During a factory maintenance visit, the team observed an Endress+Hauser Service technician using the Field Xpert SMT70B tablets. Impressed by the ease of connecting to various instruments and valves remotely, it discovered the Bluetooth connectivity of its radar level sensors. During a start-up project for new fermenters, the team quickly gathered pictures, PDF files of service reports and original parameter setting sheets for all devices. The Endress+Hauser technician demonstrated how to integrate this data into the Netilion Library portal. After IT review, the team purchased and enrolled its own Field Xpert SMT70B tablets. streamlining its reporting and tool maintenance processes.

Moving forward, the distillery team will have its own Field Xpert SMT70B tablets to continue maintaining records within the Netilion database. Field Xpert SMT70B is now a part of the daily work routine at the distillery, including proactive lifecycle management and maintenance planning.

Results Using the Field Xpert SMT70B, distillery personnel can perform tasks wirelessly from the tablet, syncing its work and organizing it in Netilion by serial number. Configurations, Heartbeat Technology verification reports and other files, such as installation pictures and drawings, are easily uploaded to an organized database accessible by the entire team. These files are stored alongside Endress+Hauser factory service records, manuals and industry certificates, significantly reducing time spent on reports and enhancing overall productivity. Furthermore, distillery personnel become safer and more efficient, avoiding the need to climb tanks or access tight spaces thanks to the technologies' remote capabilities.

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