

Automotive Electronics Plant Saves US\$1,200,000 Annually with GE Continuous Cost Reduction Plan

Background

A large automotive electronics plant operates two waste treatment facilities, both of which experienced costly operating difficulties and increasing sludge volume. Mechanical systems were unable to handle periods of heavy sludge volume, requiring frequent downtime and excessive chemical use.

Plant management asked GE Water & Process Technologies to improve operation, reduce operating costs and create a more environmentally-friendly treatment program.

Solution

GE conducted a proactive, comprehensive system review, which included gathering complete operating histories, conducting polymer screening studies, interviewing plant personnel and conducting other studies with the full-time use of TraveLab for a month. With this valuable information, GE developed and implemented a Continuous Cost Reduction plan.

Mechanical modifications were made to the systems. In addition, operating efficiency was maximized through adjustments to the chemical treatment program.

Result

Over four weeks, the GE Ask-Listen-Deliver approach to problem solving resulted in many benefits. As performance improved, operating costs decreased. Most importantly, water conservation added an environmental benefit while reducing costs even further.

Continuous Cost Reduction Summary

Feature	Benefit	
60% reduction in sludge volume	Reduced sludge disposal costs	US\$700,000
Improved effluent quality	Reduced water consumption by recycling effluent to cooling towers	US\$500,000

Continuous Cost Reduction **US\$1,200,000**



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