

THE RAM REVIEW
reliability • availability • maintenance

SOME OF OUR FEATURED PERSPECTIVES

From Drew Troyer, Editor

- **Cut the FLAB.** Fasteners, lubrication, alignment, and balance (FLAB) are, collectively, the foundation of proactive maintenance that drives operational reliability up and operational costs down. Reducing FLAB problems is crucial.
- **Plant Reliability in Dollars & Sense.** It's important to understand the relationship between RAM management and the performance of your corporate dashboard elements of profit and shareholder value, quality, health and safety, environmental sustainability, and customer satisfaction.
- **Shutdown, Turnaround and Outage (STO) Management.** No single event has the potential to impact the operational reliability of a plant more than an STO, particularly a major one with a large capital-project component. Understanding the critical elements of effective STO management, *i.e.*, the mission or premise and governance; the STO strategy; the project-management team; scope management; risk management; and execution and closeout, is key to keeping STOs on schedule, on budget, safe, and high-quality, with no environmental impacts.
- **The Sustainable Plant.** Climate change has made environmental sustainability a critical issue for industrial plant owners and managers, and, in turn, serious consideration and implementation of sustainable manufacturing practices a must.

From Ken Bannister, Editor

- **Lubrication Corner.** Breaking down the myths surrounding lubrication and implementing some easy, practical solutions can significantly reduce mechanical failures due to poor lubrication practices.
- **Planning & Scheduling.** A cornerstone of any best practice organization, quality planning and scheduling practice ensures first time quality work is performed in a timely manner based on asset and stakeholder needs. A number of fundamental issues must be understood to implement a best-practice planning and scheduling approach that optimizes maintenance-staff utilization and MRO-inventory assets.
- **The Mechanics of Change.** How do you deal with and make changes to “that’s the way we’ve always done it around here” situations on the plant floor? These perspectives will emphasize tactics.
- **RAM Book of the Month Review.** A look at the latest, greatest RAM-related book releases that can expand your domain of knowledge.
- **What Gets Measured, Gets Noticed.** Understanding specific RAM-based Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and how to set up effective management-system/data-collection tools can help you benchmark and trend your RAM performance.



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From Heinz Bloch, Editor

- **The Bloch Files.** Quintessential Heinz, these advice columns on a multitude of RAM-related issues offer plenty to chew on and discuss with others.
- **Plant-Machinery Matters.** When it comes to RAM, the care and feeding of your site's "moneymaker" pumps, compressors, and turbines can't be taken lightly.

From Bob Williamson:, Editor

- **Engaging Organizations from Bottom Up.** There are numerous proven approaches for engaging plant-floor teams to achieve and showcase RAM improvements. But it often requires a "skunk works" approach to demonstrate what improvements look like and their possible results.
- **Leading Change from the Top Down.** Changing the culture to address sustainable step changes in RAM require Top Management take the lead. Aligning the top leadership's vision with all levels of leadership to the front line is key to sustainable improvement.
- **ISO 55000 – Asset Management Systems.** These perspectives will delve into the principles of ISO 55000: 2014 and discuss how to deploy an Asset Management (AM) System that fuels RAM improvements and ultimately an AM culture change. The importance of leading change initiatives from the top to the plant floor (aligning top leadership's vision with all levels of leadership to the front line) will be emphasized.
- **Training and Qualification (T&Q) Systems.** Recruiting, training, and retaining critically needed skill sets in an organization is more than an HR function. Formal T&Q is foundational to RAM in that it helps determine training needs, structure training, provide trainers and coaches, and formally qualify people to perform critical job tasks.
- **RAM's Human Factors.** Plants and facilities are growing more complex, requiring more precise human intervention. Equipment-specific and task-specific procedures (work instructions) based on performance requirements of the equipment serve as a basis for training, qualifying, and driving out human errors and human variation, the biggest causes of equipment failures. Making key points VISUAL in instructions and on equipment help mistake-proof the performance of procedures.