Using Automated Solutions

Ten ways to efficiently cut costs of your production operations
Using Automated Solutions

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INTRODUCTION

This Research Note is the second in a series of brief articles which will collectively take a look at ten different ways in which operators can efficiently cut the cost of their production operations. This, the second in the series, takes a look at the importance of automated solutions as part of efficient and effective production operations.

“Time is Money.”

Benjamin Franklin

AUTOMATING SOLUTIONS WHERE APPLICABLE

Manual processes, particularly those that are lengthy and repetitive, require costly man-hours, inhibit timely progress, and increase risk of errors. When contemplating how to do more with less and being able to do so efficiently, operators must embrace an automated solution wherever possible in order to optimize operations. Automation can be achieved in a number of key areas such as;

Business Processes

Some workflows such as processes related to well integrity problems, well abandonment, and obtaining drilling license can be in large part automated in order to standardize and speed up the process, and remove the stress of finding who and what needs to be done next.

Business Process Management (BPM) component of Landmark’s DecisionSpace® Integration Server can be used for this purpose. When set up, BPM automatically and sequentially notifies the appropriate individuals to take the required action.

Alerts

Software with alarm features like Landmark’s DecisionSpace® Production Monitoring automatically alerts users when a certain parameter goes beyond a set threshold, ensuring efficient and effective action is taken to avoid more serious and costly issues.

Measurements

Some measurements are critical for decision making. A good number of these measurements can automatically be obtained through use of sensors in the field.

Although sensors are becoming more cost effective every day, operators should take care of using the right ones at the right place. For example, automatic measurement of fluid level by insertion of sensors in the tanks and separators minimizes the risk of spillage and related costly cleanup. This way the operator saves on cleanup cost and lowers the risk of regulatory non-compliance.

Equipment

A great deal of man-hours and associated costs can be avoided by having a pump system that automatically adjusts its speed based on the production volume at the time, or shuts off when serious problem occurs with pump operation. This saves energy for unnecessary running of the pump and prevents costly damage. Rockwell
Automation as part of Landmark’s Voice of the Oilfield™ is an example of this kind of pump automation, as we strive to bring the field and the office together.

**SUMMARY**

Automation is without doubt an essential part of modern day production, making operations more efficient and reducing the scope for human error. After all “Time is Money” and this money can only be realised through efficient and effective production operations.

Jean Rostand once said “Think! Why Think? We have computers to do that for us”. To a large extent this is true. Computers do indeed do a lot of the “thinking” and handle some of the more mundane and highly repetitive tasks, allowing us to use our time more efficiently and effectively. That is not to say that we can afford to switch off entirely. We need to remain on the ball and aware of what the data is indicating so we can step in and take the appropriate action. The time saved by automated solutions should be reinvested in ensuring robust interpretative work is leveraged in the decision making process to further optimize production operations.

The next article in the series will take a look at the importance of prioritizing and performing lower cost production optimization.

If you have any questions around this topic or would like to be notified when we post the next article, please join us in the [Production and Economics Community Forum on iEnergy](https://www.ienergy.com/).