

Diagnostics Software Provides Valuable Control Valve Performance Insights and Cost Savings for Power Plant Maintenance

POWER

Background

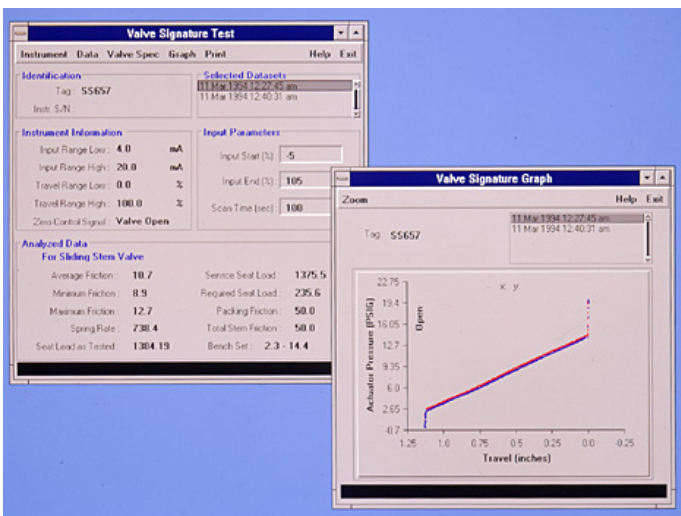
One of our customer power plants invested in a system to manage the maintenance of its control valve population by purchasing Emerson's online AMS ValveLink software. The system is used to perform control valve diagnostics to determine the necessity of valve repair or confirm repair type. This new work practice has shown payback on the investment through valve repair savings, as well as savings on contract services.

Results

Since the upgrade to an online AMS (asset management) system in early 2011 and the addition of a workstation, the AMS ValveLink software has enabled plant personnel to achieve savings in several areas. The following are examples of the savings realized since the implementation of the online system:

During the 2011 annual outage, personnel used the Batch Runner, part of the AMS ValveLink software, to upgrade the FIELDVUE™ digital valve controllers to the latest HART enhanced device descriptor language (EDDL). This process normally takes 1 hour per valve to complete. Batch Runner allows the end user to set up tasks that enable upgrades or services to multiple tags within AMS ValveLink during outage downtime. These revision updates run without the need for intervention by plant personnel.

The work station provides a valuable tool for plant personnel. During the 2010 annual outage, the customer contracted the diagnostic services for their facility control valves. In 2011 they completed their facility diagnostic maintenance tasks with analysis assistance from Control Southern.



Total Investment:

- AMS Online System Software: **\$22,270**
- AMS 300 Tag System with Calibration Assistant: **\$19,401**
- Installation Labor for AMS System: **\$5,091.49**
- Dell PC for AMS System: **\$1,500**
- **Total = \$48,262.49**

Total Savings:

- Batch Runner Updates: **\$8,300**
- Diagnostic Services Savings: **\$33,584**
- Bad I/P Discovered with Diagnostics: **\$1,425**
- Eliminated Need to Open and Inspect Turbine Bypass: **\$25,440**
- **Total = \$68,749**