

CONDITION-BASED MAINTENANCE YIELDS SMARTER UPKEEP, SAFER CREWS FOR AKER BP

Case Study



Honeywell

In the high-stakes oil and gas industry, where operational efficiency and safety are paramount, companies are increasingly turning to condition-based maintenance (CBM) strategies. Aker BP, a prominent exploration and production company, represents this shift, demonstrating how CBM practices can significantly improve safety while optimizing performance.

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Here, we look at Aker BP's implementation of CBM and its impact on safety protocols within their operations. Håkon Halvorsen Skibeli, condition-based maintenance engineer at Aker BP, shares how Honeywell Forge Asset Performance Management (APM) is helping them to realize the benefits of CBM.

PROACTIVE, DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE

CBM is a proactive approach to equipment upkeep, focusing on real-time monitoring rather than adhering to fixed maintenance schedules. By assessing the actual state of equipment, Aker BP can conduct maintenance only when conditions warrant it, effectively reducing unnecessary downtime and optimizing resource allocation.

Skibeli says the company's commitment to a more data-driven operational strategy means that while the value generated by properly maintained platforms necessitates vigilant monitoring and action.

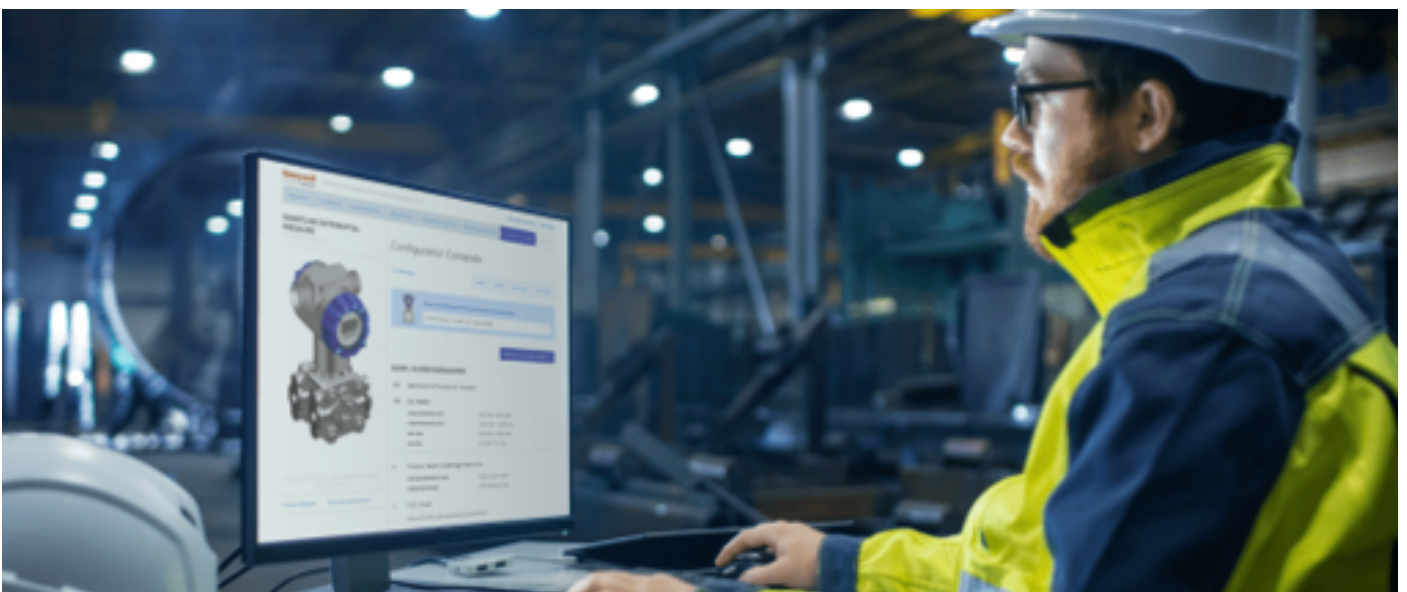
Digitalization is part of Aker BP's successful shift toward CBM. By leveraging Honeywell Forge APM, which integrates real-time data from multiple equipment types and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) into a single dashboard to facilitating proactive decision-making, the company has changed its maintenance approach from reactive to proactive. "You can just set up your own models for your own calculations," Skibeli says.

Aker BP can continuously monitor equipment conditions on six of its assets on the Norwegian Continental Shelf in the North Sea, ensuring that maintenance is executed only when necessary. "We depend on them to tell me," Skibeli adds, indicating how technology

alleviates the need for engineers and technicians to continuously check equipment manually.

Although initially Aker BP faced a few challenges adopting the new strategy, Skibeli says they adapted by hiring a dedicated condition-based maintenance engineer, "Me," he joked, to be responsible for addressing maintenance alerts. "Every condition alert that we get shall be addressed," he said.

Ongoing improvement and adaptation are key in order to minimize false alerts that could overwhelm the system. Continuous improvement to the monitoring process allows engineers to tune the system more effectively and concentrate on critical issues, Skibeli says.



SMART MAINTENANCE, SAFER WORKERS

Implementing CBM has profound safety ramifications. Equipment that is essential for safety, such as safety valves, pressure sensors and critical control systems, receives focused attention based on its operational status. Skibeli points out that effective maintenance is not just about responding to issues but understanding the equipment's ongoing needs, indicating that they do whatever they can, wherever useful, to monitor the condition of equipment and act on it.

Additionally, by reducing the frequency of scheduled maintenance that might not be necessary, CBM minimizes disruptions to ongoing operations, thereby decreasing the chances of accidents that can occur during maintenance activities. Employees are less likely to be exposed to hazardous conditions when maintenance is performed only as needed and based on verified conditions.

By employing APM tools, Aker BP achieves real-time monitoring and data analysis that enhances operational

visibility. This technology streamlines the collection and dissemination of important information about equipment status, allowing engineers to make informed decisions without being overwhelmed by unnecessary data,

The objective, as Skibeli notes, is to implement systems that improve operational safety while ensuring reliable and efficient production.



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