

CASE STUDY – BAT2 NORTON CAST PRODUCTS LTD

Steel foundry Norton Cast Products Ltd. has put its NAMTEC grant funding to good use using E9 Limited to deliver a programme of support measures with wide ranging benefits.

Work undertaken at Norton Cast Products includes:

Benchmarking
Energy surveys
Thermography
Ultrasonic Leakage testing
Ultrasonic Motor assessment
Design and specification of changes to the company compressed air system and procurement of plant.



The compressed air systems were identified during survey work as a mission critical risk to production with a number of energy efficiency and environmental improvement options. E9 Limited identified the company was exposed to a high risk of plant failure and needed to put a strategy in place to reduce the risk and to make improvements in the system.

The strategy proposed covered issues including reduction of waste through preventive maintenance of the plant and system, improvement of air quality, reduction of plant risk and improvement in the overall equipment effectiveness. The solution designed was one that took future factory demands into place and was sympathetic to the need to cost effective solutions.

The proposals are now being put into effect at the site where air consumption has been reduced significantly following an air leakage survey which allowed maintenance staff to have a campaign of repairing air leaks. Factors in the distribution of the air have been taken into account and pressure limitations within the system addressed.

During the project implementation phase the factory had the event that E9 had predicted: loss of one of the two compressors. Simon Alexander (Managing Director of Norton Cast Products) said "Without the advice of E9 we would have lost production, but the timely nature of intervention meant we had prepared ourselves. The air demand on the site had been lowered through fixing leaks to within the capacity of a single machine and we had a budgeted capital plan ready on the shelf for implementation".

The company is now moving forward with the installation of a 90kW Variable Speed Drive compressor offering the optimum energy efficiency. This solution will also reduce site noise, provide passive heating in the fettling shop, provide improved oil management and improve the air quality on site. Over the longer period the site will further reduce the compressed air waste by connecting plant usage to automatic control valves allowing sections of pipework to be shut off when plant is not in use.

Paul Braithwaite (Financial Director of Norton Cast Products) said "The BAT assistance provided by NAMTEC and E9 has made it easy for us to call on advice and expertise that has helped us in making critical decisions, changing work practices and planning for the future. I'd recommend any company to join the NAMTEC scheme"

