Knowing the true sources of contamination in compressed air systems and what to do about them can lead to improved operating efficiencies for the equipment and far fewer maintenance headaches for you.

What is 1%, 2% or even 5% increase in uptime worth to you? Can it improve your bottom line? Of course it can. Improving the performance of the Maintenance function and equipment reliability has a direct link to plant uptime and company profitability. Past experience, however, has shown that getting "there" isn't always easy. That's because so many of the "breakthrough" techniques and technologies that companies hoped to use as "roadmaps" over the years have failed to consider the Maintenance function in its entirety. That no longer has to be the case.

Industry challenges
In today's competitive environment, industry is constantly under pressure to reduce costs and improve performance. The challenges it faces can be categorized as either external or internal.

The external challenges include:

- **Market Globalization**. Whether we like it or not, it is a fact of life and we all have to adapt to it.
- **Competitive Market.** Some may say "we always faced competition," but now it has reached a new level.
- **Wall Street.** As with all publicly traded companies the market expects positive results quarterly. This may not lead to a long-term vision required to sustain the business. Management must be committed to improve business performance while making smart business decisions when it comes to any improvement programs. Sometimes short term indiscriminate cost-cutting measures can have a long-term effect on the business.

Fig. 1. Evolving maintenance strategies and expected outcome

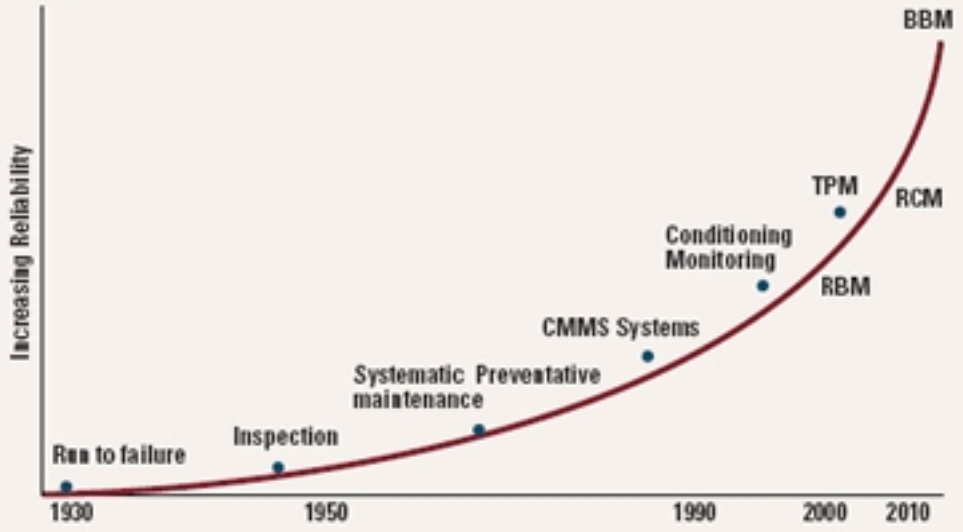
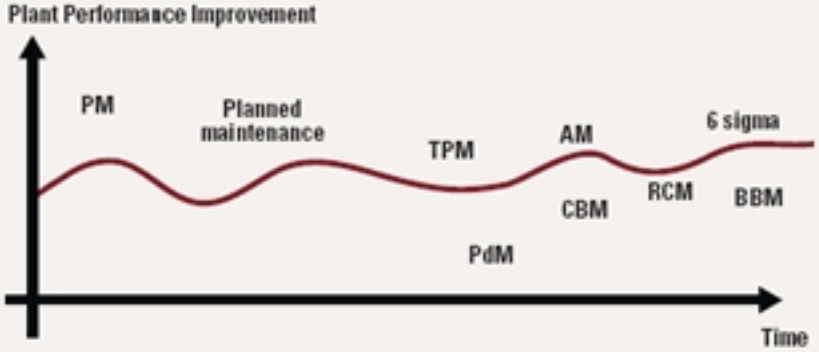


Fig. 2. Real life performance improvements for implementation of various programs



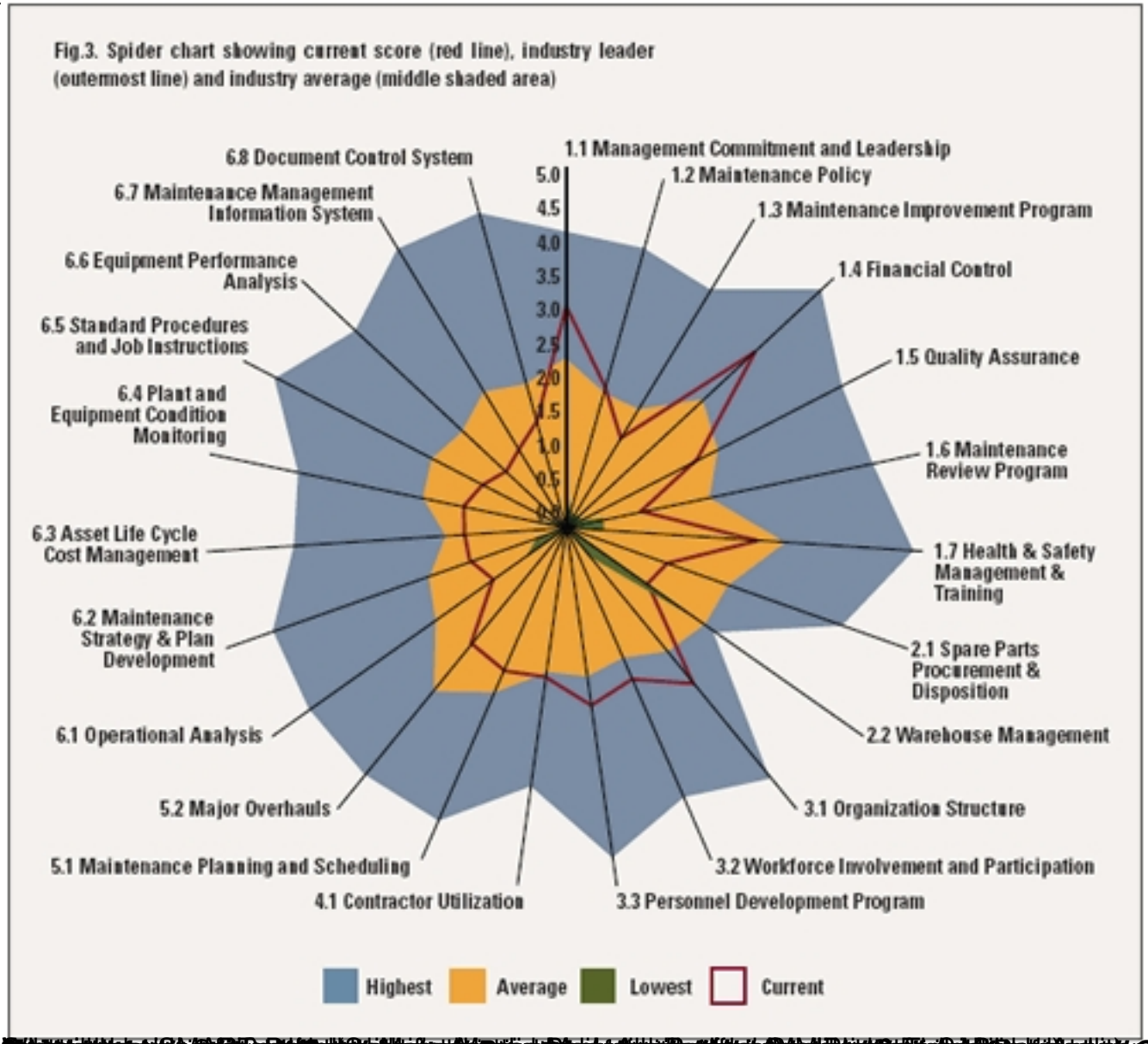
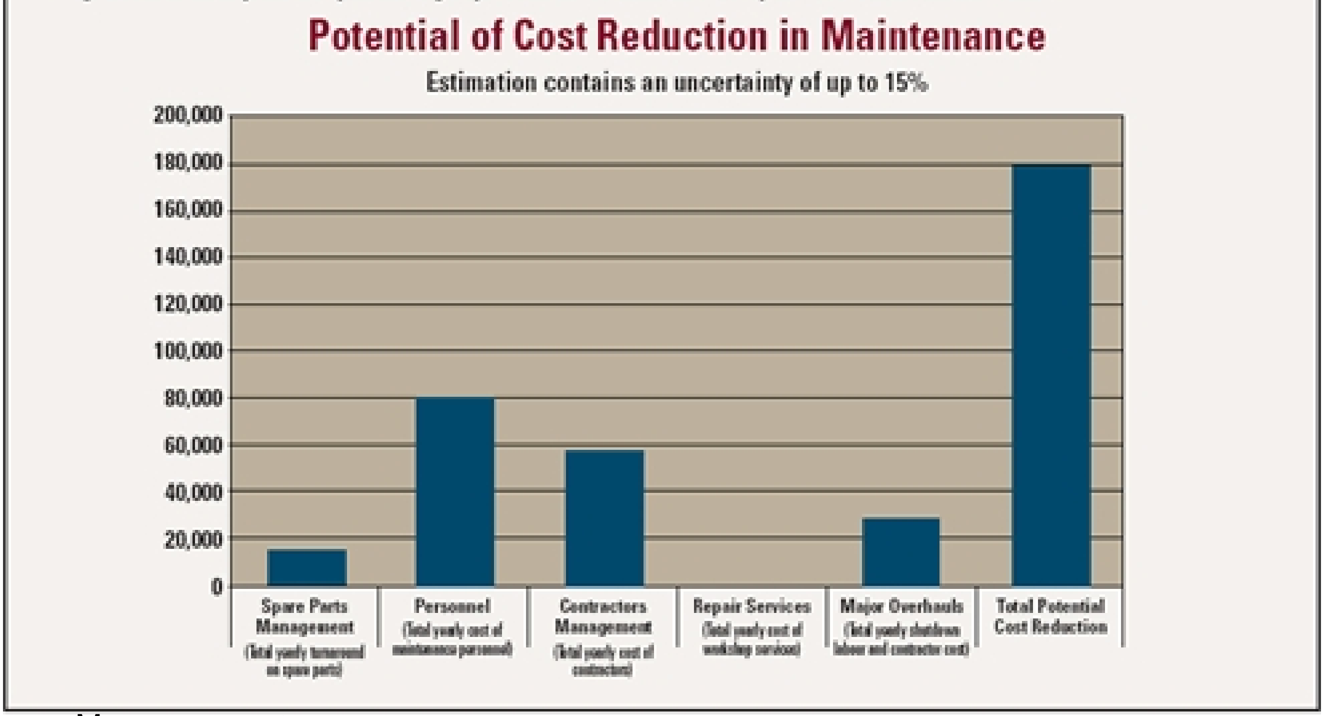


Fig.3. Spider chart showing current score (red line), industry leader (outermost line) and industry average (middle shaded area)
1.1 Management Commitment and Leadership
1.2 Maintenance Policy
1.3 Maintenance Improvement Program
1.4 Financial Control
1.5 Quality Assurance
1.6 Maintenance Review Program
1.7 Health & Safety Management & Training
2.1 Spare Parts Procurement & Disposition
2.2 Warehouse Management
3.1 Organization Structure
3.2 Workforce Involvement and Participation
3.3 Personnel Development Program
4.1 Contractor Utilization
5.1 Maintenance Planning and Scheduling
5.2 Major Overhauls
6.1 Operational Analysis
6.2 Maintenance Strategy & Plan Development
6.3 Asset Life Cycle Cost Management
6.4 Plant and Equipment Condition Monitoring
6.5 Standard Procedures and Job Instructions
6.6 Equipment Performance Analysis
6.7 Maintenance Management Information System
6.8 Document Control System
5.0
4.5
4.0
3.5
3.0
2.5
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0
Highest
Average
Lowest
Current

[redacted]

Fig. 4. Financial impact of implementing improvements recommended as part of the maintenance audit



- Management commitment and leadership

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