Monticello Meets Objectives with Zero-PCE Outage

One Program Improves Safety, Process and Efficiency

As they began advance preparations for Spring 2015’s planned outage, managers at Xcel Energy’s nuclear power plant in Monticello, Minnesota were determined to avoid costly problems of past outages. First, they took advantage of their membership in the Utility Services Alliance (USA) and performed a “total cost of ownership evaluation.” The analysis, which provided a standard format for evaluating products and services and uncovering cost-sharing opportunities with other alliance members, showed a savings of $192,000 over the plant’s previous Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Program. With this goal in mind, they turned to UniTech to meet their protective garment needs.

Monticello already had a USA contract with UniTech for ProTech Plus® coveralls and hoods. However, the facility had contracted with another supplier for other personal protective apparel and accessories, and these items were disposables. Unfortunately, the outage crew had experienced tear outs wearing the non-durable disposable rubber gloves and shoe covers when scaling ladders or performing other maintenance tasks. This had to change.

Therefore, for the Spring 2015 outage, Monticello decided to work more closely with UniTech. “We effectively became their sole supplier for the outage,” explained Shannon Fitzgerald, Technical Account Manager for UniTech’s Morris, Illinois plant. He recommended the One Program, with its cost-per-use charge system, as an economical way to incorporate additional UniTech services.

Eliminate Tacky Mats
Reduce Waste with Long-Lasting Polymeric Mats

Building on our commitment to the three Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle), UniTech is proud to be the exclusive nuclear industry distributor for Dycem floor mats. The washable polymeric mats use Van der Waals forces – the same forces that allow a gecko to climb walls – to reduce the potential spread of inadvertent ground level contamination.

When placed at entrances and exits or other critical control points, the Dycem mats reduce the movement of contaminants. More dirt on the mat means facilities stay cleaner. The soft polymer composition of the mat assures that it comes in contact with more surface area of shoes than a hard surface adhesive

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“I appreciated the clarity in pricing of the One Program, plus the ample emergency supplies provided in the Mobile Safety Store,” remarked Tim Corrigan, Radiation Protection Technician at Monticello.

To better gauge the needs of the nuclear facility and to learn first-hand the particular situations that outage workers expect to encounter, Fitzgerald and other UniTech personnel visited the facility before, during and after the outage. Meeting face-to-face with staff allowed Fitzgerald to accurately assess the personal protective clothing needs for the entire outage, helping to control costs. In choosing to work more closely with UniTech, Monticello significantly increased use of launderable personal protective apparel – nearly eliminating the disposal cost of one-time-use items.

With UniTech on board, Monticello completed an outage 100 percent free of personal contamination events (PCEs) related to protective clothing failures. Ladders and other abrasive surfaces, which had previously caused an estimated five to ten tear outs due to wearing a competitor’s disposables, proved no match for the durability of UniTech’s protective clothing – especially the rubber gloves and shoe covers that had proved troublesome prior to switching to UniTech’s.

Impressed with the superior performance of the UniTech products and the economics of the One Program, as well as the professional services of UniTech staff, Monticello extended UniTech’s supply contract for the remainder of 2015. In his report on the experience with UniTech during the course of the outage, Monticello’s Tim Corrigan wrote, “I would rate the performance of UniTech this outage as an ‘A.’ They exceeded my expectations with customer service.” Discussions are underway to expand the relationship via a long-term agreement.

Supporting Our Communities – A Good Day of Fishing

As our “Green, Clean, Sustainable” motto suggests, UniTech takes environmental stewardship – and neighbors in our communities – seriously. This fall, we sponsored an open bass tournament at Clark Hill Lake, near our Barnwell, SC plant. The friendly competition provided a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors, socialize with customers and friends and connect with the local community.

Ask the Nuclear Protective Clothing Expert

The “ONE” Way to Manage Clothing, Cut Costs, Save Labor and Time

In an era when cheap natural gas competition is pushing nuclear plant managers to scrutinize every expense, UniTech is especially committed to identifying new opportunities for cost savings. Our customers already know that using launderable ProTech Plus® garments can cut their protective clothing costs in half. Over the years, we’ve grown our protective clothing product line to meet the needs of every situation. Owning and maintaining a full inventory of UniTech apparel products is not the ideal solution for every facility. Therefore, we developed the One Program to provide an appropriate supply of garments for periods of increased need – such as a planned outage – without the hassle of onsite, long-term storage.

The One Program features an economical cost-per-use charge that includes:

- Coverall and accessory use
- Laundering
- Transportation
- Radwaste disposal

Implementation of the One Program is easy. During the planning stage of an outage, UniTech works with your staff to calculate the number of coveralls and accessories you will use. As the outage proceeds, we’ll make sure that you have more than enough:

- ProTech Plus coveralls
- ProTech Plus hoods
- Rubber shoes and gloves
- Nylon booties
- 2,000 extra ColorSized ProTech Plus clothing sets (for no extra charge)

We also include our Mobile Safety Store, packed with:

- Extra inventory for contingencies
- As desired, UniWear single-use coveralls (to be used as sacrificial outer garments in high contamination areas)
- Consumable safety supplies for just-in-time customer access (signs, tape, tacky mats, cleaning supplies, etc.)
- PAPRs (Powered Air Purifying Respirators)

Since 1958, UniTech handles the delivery and removal of all items. Plant workers can remain completely focused on outage assignments. At your request, UniTech personnel can assist onsite to provide support for dress-out procedures and other training.

UniTech’s protective garments have proven their value time and again. The One Program takes your cost savings further, mitigating inventory expenses. UniTech will work with you to ensure the right fit for your facility.

Through the One Program, customers pay for what they use, not for what they store!

For more information or a cost comparison, contact your UniTech account manager or our corporate sales group at (413) 543-6911.

“One” pricing makes cost comparison simple.
UniTech Launches New Website

UniTech recently launched a new website to best support the value we bring to the nuclear industry. The site features enriched content that can easily be shared with colleagues and peers across multiple platforms. Our main objective, as always, is to help customers meet and exceed their performance goals.

Content on the streamlined website can be easily accessed no matter how customers prefer to connect—whether via desktop computer, mobile phone or tablet.

Features include:

- Information on our apparel, apparel programs, tool, metal and equipment monitoring, and decontamination capabilities
- Our inclusive service and product offerings for nuclear facilities
- Descriptions of our regulatory readiness services for achieving top quartile rankings
- Easy shopping for protective clothing and safety products
- News and case studies to support our customer’s decision making and best practices

The refreshed website features insights, research and trends of interest to the nuclear services industry. Plus, the articles, whitepapers, video, product specifications, and more can easily be shared via LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Google+, or email. We’ll continue to update the site to help ensure worker safety, cost management and environmental sustainability in the nuclear industry.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

11th Annual European Workshop Achieves Learning Goals

UniTech Europe conducted its 11th annual workshop for industry learning and benchmarking this fall. Participants learned about respiratory protection, heat stress management and lead shielding, among other topics. The workshop was held on September 30 and October 1 in Annecy, France. More than four dozen nuclear industry professionals attended the event, which featured a technical tour of CERN Atomic Super Collider in Geneva, Switzerland.

Recent Contract Highlights

- Dominion, Millstone: CoolVest & Cooling Packs
- Savannah River Remediation: UniTrek Rubber Shoes, Hoods
- GE: Master Agreement for Laundry Services
- Exelon, TMI: Lead Survey & Sorting
- CB&I: New Service Contract
- Palo Verde: Mobile Supply Store & HEPA Vacuum Recertification
- Bechtel Marine Propulsion: ProTech Bag Suits
- West Valley: ProTech Coveralls

Words of Wisdom

“Price is what you pay. Value is what you get.”

– Warren Buffett
American Business Magnate
1930 -

QA Update

Consistency Matters

Whether leased or ordered through our adaptable cost-per-use One Program, all UniTech garments are handled in a consistent manner to ensure quality control. We follow stringent ISO 9001 quality management protocols. Our ProTech Plus® hoods and coveralls, rubber shoe covers and other protective garments are produced and laundered in controlled environments. Our workers are trained and given clear instructions on the use of appropriate monitoring equipment and other machinery. Every time our protective clothing is supplied to a nuclear facility, the delivery conforms to the high quality customers expect from UniTech.

Upcoming Conferences

- Nov 8-12: ANS Winter Meeting/Washington, DC
- Nov 17: ASSE/Falmouth, MA
- Nov 30-Dec 3: Perma Fix/Nashville, TN
- Dec 8-10: ETEBA/Knoxville, TN
- Jan 5-7: BWR-RP/ALARA/San Antonio, TX
- Jan 6-8: Region I&II RPM Meeting/Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Jan 11-13: EPRI (ISOE) ALARA/Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Jan 14-15: NRC Region 3&4 RPM Meeting/Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Jan 25-28: USA Winter Meeting/Carlsbad, CA
- Mar 6-9: Waste Management/Phoenix, AZ
- July 13-15: USA Executive Summit/Salt Lake City, UT
- Aug 14-17: Utility Working Conference/Omni Amelia Island, FL
- Aug 23: Region III RPM Meeting/Lisle, IL
- Aug 26-28: PWR/ALARA Conference/Key West, FL
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Shannon Fitzgerald Promoted

This August, Shannon Fitzgerald was promoted to Account Manager. Based out of UniTech’s Morris, IL plant, he provides sales and account management services throughout the Midwest, focusing on providing cost-effective programs for current and prospective customers.

Fitzgerald is a familiar face to many in the nuclear industry. His customers have included all of Exelon’s nuclear plants in Illinois; Entergy’s Palisades plant and American Electric Power’s DC Cook plant in Michigan; and Wolf Creek’s plant in Kansas – just to name a few. In a prior position as a UniTech Site Coordinator, he worked with FPL’s St. Lucie plant, Duke Energy’s Catawba plant in South Carolina and other nuclear power stations.

Arm Sleeves: Another UniTech Innovation

Reduce dress-out time and minimize radioactive waste with UniTech’s reusable elastic arm sleeves. The elastic securely grips both rubber gloves and coverall garments without sticking to skin or apparel. Sleeves pull on easily and are even simpler to remove. Unlike tape, the sleeves can be laundered and reused, minimizing waste.

UniTech Partners with Dycem®

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mat with peel-off films. At the same time, Dycem mats are highly durable, ideal for busy walking areas. Unlike adhesive mats, Dycem mats remain effective even when they appear dirty, still collecting dust particles as small as five microns (about the size of a red blood cell) from shoes and cart wheels.

With regular cleaning, Dycem mats are engineered to last as long as three years. (In fact, Magnox in Great Britain reports using some mats for four years.) Simply wash the mats in place with a small amount of liquid as part of your regular custodial routine. Since the mats can be recycled, they will reduce your facility’s impact on the waste stream. Even better, they will stretch your budget; Magnox’s Oldbury nuclear plant used 56,000 fewer peel-off sheets in one year, a savings of more than $80,000.

To find out more about how Dycem mats can improve your nuclear facility’s maintenance plan, overall safety and budget, contact your UniTech account representative.

Thanks for reading UniTRACK!


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See for yourself in this video: UniTechUS.com/arm-sleeves

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