Nuclear Plant Management Under Pressure To Cut Costs

UniTech Team Offers Proven Solutions

Nuclear plant management is getting the word from above: cut costs or risk closure.

At some point, it becomes challenging for management to devise yet more ways to cut costs without negatively affecting safety or productivity. Decreases to either productivity or safety defeat the purpose of creating savings, especially over the long term.

UniTech has developed (and vetted) new ideas and initiatives to save money in nearly everything our customers do. Here’s a checklist of changes to consider:

- Leverage UniTech’s latest tool and metal monitoring and decontamination technologies to reduce costs, storage issues and liability
- Choose launderable apparel rather than disposables
- Use our onsite labor for clothing collection and distribution during outages, minimizing labor costs, while assuring sufficient labor for critical path work
- Use launderable, reusable GripTech gloves in place of rubber gloves; improving working comfort and dexterity while reducing costs
- Install long-lasting, effective Dycem mats (featured in our last newsletter, now online at unitechus.com/news/eliminate-tacky-mats)
- Reuse 3M breathing tubes by employing reusable protective covers which facilitate reuse with minimal decontamination
- Employ byproduct / trash sorting / item recovery / BSFR disposition
- Consolidate your scrub and rad shipments for major savings
- Security inspections – local UniTech plant options to save money and reduce travel costs
- Eliminate the need for hard hat covers
- Using expensive waterproof Delta Suits? Switch to our DryGuard suits with vortex chiller, with no expiration dates resulting in 10 percent cost savings and better heat stress reduction

Interested? Let us calculate how much your plant can save.

Rally Cry for Nuclear Energy

The Paris climate talks highlighted renewed interest in the benefits of nuclear energy and spurred calls for increased attention to planning for nuclear energy production. Here is a quick rundown of recent developments in the nuclear world:

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) challenged the world to switch from producing 70 percent of our global electricity with fossil fuels to producing 80 percent with low-carbon methods within the next 30 years.
- Simultaneously, the International Energy Agency predicts an 80 to 130 percent increase in energy demands by 2050.
- Nuclear for Climate, a coalition of 140 nuclear associations and technical societies, contends that current nuclear technology has the capacity to meet the Paris climate goal of limiting global temperature increase to 2 °C if there is a renewed investment in building nuclear power generation facilities.

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Do These Challenges Sound Familiar?

Legacy Material
• Trailers, containers & FRAC tanks sit idle
• Warehouses, basements and designated storage areas fill-up with loosely tracked tools & equipment
• Fukushima, INPO pressure and executive leadership drive action to reduce & eliminate unused and left-behind material from past projects

Outage
• Contractor tools take utility HP time and clutter the critical path during outage
• HP is left with contaminated material with limited to no budget for decon post-outage
• Rare re-use items create risk of PCEs due to limited decon and management
• Maintenance buys the same equipment over and over again

Capital
• Non-outage capital projects are very diverse
• On-site project management teams are not often resourced to directly manage temporary labor
• The utility is often encumbered by decon laborers
• Free-releasing material may require third-party validation

UniTech’s Decontamination & Off-Site Recycling Program
Permanent disposition is no longer the only option UniTech’s value propositions for decontamination & off-site recycling can generate:
• Up to millions of dollars in savings for utilities, fleet-wide
• Potentially over thirty percent recovery on valuable tools that would otherwise need to be repurchased
• Shared scrap value for obsolete items

Contact UniTech at (800-344-3824) or your account representative to calculate your prospective savings.

Latest Innovations in Tool and Metal Monitoring and Decontamination

UniTech R&D focuses substantial energy on solving the industry’s most vexing problems with tool and metal monitoring and decontamination. This article highlights just a few of our recent additions. For a more complete picture, check out our TMD videos at www.unitechus.com/services/tool-metal-equipment-monitoring-decontamination/ – or call us anytime.

Hand Frisking Made Smarter

LM8 Monitor
Monitor large flat surfaces with the LM8 monitor. 8 detectors staggered for maximum coverage. Rollers provide smooth sweep and consistent spacing.

VM3 Monitor
The 3 detectors of the VM3 monitor scans a broad surface and reduces the number of passes needed.

IP1 Monitor
With the IP1 monitor UniTech can reach areas off limits to conventional scanners including interior surfaces of pipes and scaffolding.

IC2 Monitor
The IC2 monitor’s strategically overlapped detectors scan interior surfaces of 90 degree corners in one sweep.

OC2 Monitor
Scan exterior edges with the OC2 monitor. Cover more surface area in one pass than conventional monitors can in several.

Alpha Count
UniTech provides alpha count smear testing used for Canadian customers.

Decontamination That’s Tougher than Steel

ChemClean Process
For items that have fixed contamination levels that cannot be removed through standard methods, UniTech has engineered and designed a new ChemClean Process that can remove millions of DPM from contaminated equipment within fifteen minutes... accomplishing the difficult task of decontaminating components with millions of DPM to achieve minimum detectable activity levels. Ideal for tough-to-decon stainless steel components, among others.
Rally Cry for Nuclear Energy

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- Washington-based think tank Third Way hosted a January summit with Idaho, Oak Ridge and Argonne National Laboratories on advanced nuclear technology. The group is pushing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to allow testing of these new designs.

Ironically, recent nuclear power plant closings have spurred an increase in carbon-intense energy solutions. Since the San Onofre nuclear plant closed in 2012, California’s demand for natural gas increased significantly and a new natural-gas-powered electrical facility was approved. In Massachusetts, where two reactors are being decommissioned, the push to expand natural gas has intensified. In Europe, Germany has increased its coal dependence even as it accelerated its nuclear decommissioning plans.

The news isn’t all negative. In the U.S., the Watts Bar Unit 2 reactor is scheduled to go online in 2016 and Vogtle’s construction is moving forward. In Europe, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Finland are upgrading their facilities and France will be upgrading and extending the life of their 58 reactors. China and other countries are increasing their nuclear capacity as well. Perhaps James Conca, a senior scientist with UFA Ventures, summed it up best in his December 12, 2015 Forbes editorial: “The barriers to a rapid deployment [of nuclear facilities] are political and social, not technical, nor safety, nor scientific.”

UniTech sees the case for nuclear energy growing brighter each day. We look forward to being part of the low-carbon energy solution with you. With our clean, green laundering services and innovative tool decontaminating processes, we can help the nuclear industry continue to be good environmental stewards while also improving the cash flow of nuclear facilities.

New Longer GripTech Gloves

We’ve recently added a 14-inch high-visibility Nitrile GripTech glove to our line. This 14-inch extended-cuff model improves the seal with apparel and makes for an easier, speedier and less wasteful dressout process. The gloves eliminate the need for taping garments and removes the potential of radioactive contamination from tape’s adhesive residue. Key features of all GripTech gloves include:

- Maximum protection
- Color-coded bands by size for easy identification
- Marked and color-coded “right” and ‘left” for easy sorting
- Breathable knit back helps keep hands cool
- Water-resistant dipped palm
- Nitrile-dipped palm is highly resistant to oils and solvents while retaining elasticity
- Comfortable, with ergonomic curved design
- Excellent gripping ability
- Launderable, reusable, long-lasting – highly cost-efficient!

Customers who try GripTech gloves swear by them. Check out our literature at www.unitechus.com/literature/#apparel.

Words of Wisdom

“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

– Thomas Edison
American Inventor
1847 – 1931

Upcoming Conferences

- May 17-20: CRPVA/Toronto, Ontario
- May 31-June 6: Innovative Industrial Solutions/Destin, FL
- June 7: USA Key Supplier Fair – PSEG/Salem & Hope Creek, NJ
- June 9: USA Key Supplier Fair – Talen Energy/Susquehanna, PA
- June 13-15: PAWR/Alara/San Diego, CA
- June 20-23: EPRI RW/Orlando, FL
- July 13-15: USA Executive Summit/Snowbird, UT
- July 31-Aug 3: NEI-RP Forum/St. Petersburg, FL
- Aug 9: USA Key Supplier Fair - Luminant/Comanche Peak, TX
- Aug 14-17: Utility Working Conference/Omni Amelia Island, FL
- Aug 15-18: Candu Fuel/Kingston, Ontario
- Aug 23: Region III RPM Meeting/Elise, IL

Recent Contract Highlights

- Electric Boat, Quonset Point: Respirator Cleaning
- Princeton Plasma: 2 Year Laundry & Supplies Contract
- Exelon, Calvert Cliffs: New Contract for Launderable Protective Clothing & Onsite Labor for Outage
- URS Corporation: Rubber Gloves, Shoe Covers & Booties
- DOE Richland: Laundry Services
- Consolidated Nuclear: ProTech Coveralls, Inneralls, Bath Towels, Socks
- First Energy, Davis Besse: GripTech Gloves, ProTech Hoods
- Nebraska Public Power, Cooper: 3M Versaflo Hoods & Filters
- Raytheon Company: TOW Missile Cover Bags
- Exelon, Peach Bottom: UniStock Dispensers
- Bechtel Marine Propulsion: ProTech Bag Suits
- Pacific Gas & Electric, Diablo Canyon: MaxAir Hoods & Belts
- Duke Energy, Oconee: Onsite 3M PAPR Support & CoolTech Scrubs
- Savannah River Remediation: Coveralls, Lab Coats
- PSEG, Salem: GripTech Gloves
- Xcel Energy, Prairie Island: CoolVests
- Techno Science of Japan: RF Coveralls, Hoods, Gloves & Socks
- Ontario Power Generation, Darlington: Hose Decontamination & Insulation Bags
- Candu Energy: Contract for Material & Equipment Decontamination
- USA Promo Sales: Shirts, Jackets, Backpacks, Scrubs, Caps, Sweatshirts

QA Update

Old School, New School

Nuclear power work in the 70s and 80s often involved donning a respirator, double sets of full protective clothing or single PCs with a plastic suit, extra rubber gloves and shoe covers – the perfect storm for heat stress. In the early 90s, UniTech (formerly INS) introduced ProTech protective clothing, which provided superior protection from radioactive contamination and heat stress, allowing workers performing low-moisture activities to wear a single set of PCs. Using ProTech reduced laundry costs and radwaste.

Now UniTech also offers GripTech gloves to replace cotton liners and rubber gloves for many applications. GripTech gloves provide puncture and cut resistance, excellent dexterity, breathable fabric, plus easy laundering and decontamination… more improvements and cost savings from UniTech!

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UniTech Staff Updates

Steve Williams has been promoted to Assistant Operations Manager, supporting key initiatives including developing and implementing business objectives and budget requirements. Initially, he is charged with improving plant productivity, increasing efficiency and standardizing equipment utilization procedures. In addition he works with Corporate Health Physics and Engineering to assure regulatory compliance. For 22 years, Williams worked at our Springfield, MA plant, most recently as Plant Manager. He also devoted eight years to the U.S. Navy as an engineering Laboratory Technician.

Joe Phaneuf has been promoted to Springfield, MA Plant Manager. In this role, he oversees all aspects of the Springfield plant operation, including laundry operations, production and staff scheduling, hiring and management, quality assurance, and financial performance. During his 16 years with UniTech, Phaneuf became a skilled radiation safety officer and ISO lead auditor. In addition, he is trained in Hazardous Materials Shipping and International Hazardous Materials Shipping.

Project Updates

World’s Largest Nuclear Utility Signs Agreement with UniTech

UniTech to Build New Facility in France

UniTech has finalized a long-term agreement with the world’s largest nuclear utility, EDF, to provide protective apparel laundry services to EDF plants. To support this major contract, UniTech will construct a new facility in Joinville, France. Plant construction begins in early 2018, and UniTech plans a mid-2019 opening. You can view a video displaying a rendering for the new plant at http://www.unitechus.com/literature/#videos.

Thanks for reading UniTRACK!
Visit www.UniTechUS.com for a free pair of earbud headphones. Enter code: ROCKON

Survey
Would you like to complete this survey online instead? Visit www.vsamarketing.com/UTSV

Enclosed here – and coming soon to your email inbox – is a brief online survey. In appreciation for returning the survey by the end of May, participants will be asked to choose between a charitable contribution to American Heart Association, a popular UniTech industry T-shirt or nuclear travel mug. Thank you in advance for helping improve the service UniTech provides to the nuclear industry.

UniTech Services Group, Inc. is a subsidiary of UniFirst Corporation.

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