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Asset Performance

CONFERENCE MAGAZINE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE | November 4-5, 2025 | Antwerp, Belgium

- Discover how simulation boosts safety and skills at Evonik
- Smarter decisions, fewer surprises: predictive maintenance powered by Bayesian Networks
- Share data without losing control with secure, scalable industrial data spaces
- How Yara makes predictive insights accessible to every technician

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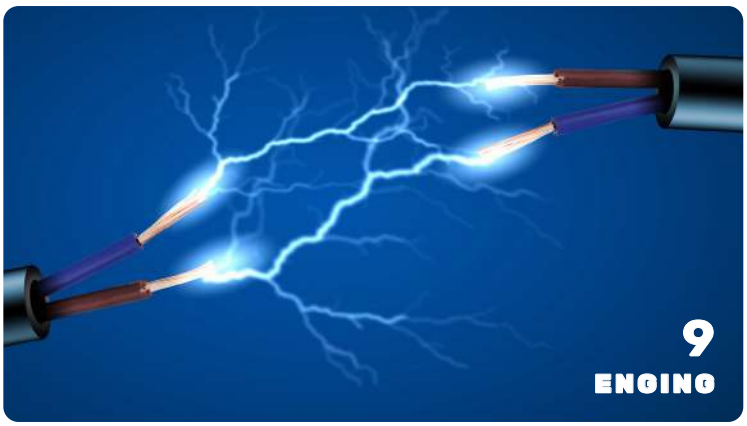

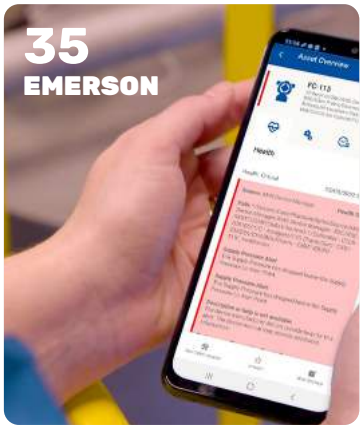

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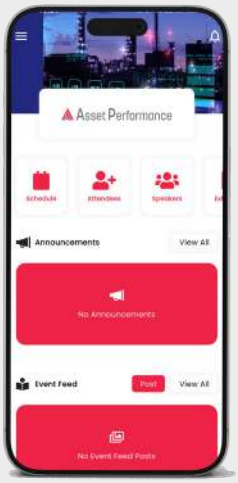

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Browse speaker and sponsor profiles

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ASSET PERFORMANCE 2025: FROM INSIGHT TO IMPACT

The pressure to achieve higher reliability and higher efficiency at lower operational costs has never been greater. Asset Performance 2025 brings together the sharpest minds and most innovative solutions in maintenance, reliability, and asset management to help you turn data and technology into measurable results.

Across two inspiring days at the Flanders Meeting & Convention Center in Antwerp, you learn how predictive & prescriptive maintenance, advanced asset data management and digital transformation are used to improve asset (cost) performance. Whether you lead asset strategy, manage operations & maintenance, or work on reliability improvements, you'll find the insights, tools, and connections to drive performance in your organisation.

Asset Performance 2025 is more than a conference – it's a platform for collaboration, innovation, and transformation. By bringing together asset owners, technology providers, researchers, and thought leaders, we create a space where ideas become actionable strategies and innovation turns into real-world results.

The programme features world-class keynote presentations, in-depth technical sessions, interactive workshops, and innovation pitches from industry leaders and pioneers. From Bayesian networks for better maintenance decisions, to secure industrial data spaces for cross-company collaboration, to human-centric AI for predictive maintenance, the sessions are designed to both inform and inspire. You can hear from companies like Yara, Evonik, Aquafin, DS Smith, and many others who are already redefining what's possible. And there are several in-depth workshops.

Beyond the conference halls, you also have the opportunity to discover cutting-edge solutions and services at the exhibition in the catering area. Here, you can explore practical solutions, meet technology providers, and discuss opportunities with peers facing the same challenges you do.

I invite you to dive into this magazine for a preview of the sessions, interviews, and case studies awaiting you. Let it be your guide to making the most of your time at the conference – and a spark to push the boundaries of asset performance in your own organisation.

WIM VANCAUWENBERGHE
Conference Director

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SCHEDULE

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4	
08:00 - 21:45	Networking hall open
09:00 - 18:00	Conference sessions
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
15:45 - 16:15	Coffee break
18:00 - 18:45	Opening reception
18:45 - 20:00	Keynote presentation
20:00 - 21:45	Walking dinner
21:45	End of event

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5	
08:00 - 16:45	Networking hall open
09:00 - 15:45	Conference sessions
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
15:45 - 16:45	Closing reception
16:45	End of event

WHY VISIT ASSET PERFORMANCE 2025?

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JOIN INDUSTRY LEADERS, INNOVATORS, AND PEERS TO EXPLORE HOW YOU CAN:

- **Predict & Prevent Failures** – Scale predictive & prescriptive maintenance beyond pilots.
- **Unlock the Power of Your Data** – Break down silos with secure, standardised data sharing.
- **Lead in Asset Management 5.0** – Combine digital tools with human-centric operational excellence.
- **Accelerate Digital Transformation** – Harness AI, IoT, and automation for real-time decisions.
- **Boost Reliability & Resilience** – Align technical, process, and human factors for peak performance.
- **Learn from the Best** – Apply lessons from cross-sector success stories across manufacturing, energy, transport, and utilities.

*Whether you're looking to **increase uptime, cut costs,** or **drive innovation,** Asset Performance 2025 gives you the insights, tools, and network to make it happen.*

Discover the full programme on p. 25 - 32

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4

09:00

HOW TO SOLVE THE INDUSTRIAL DATA DILEMMA

Dr. Sebastian Opriel
sovity

p. 10

18:45

HOW TO MAKE EUROPEAN & BELGIAN INDUSTRY GREAT AGAIN?

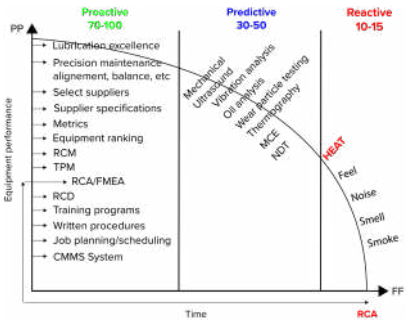
Prof. Dr. Cind Du Bois

p. 21

DIGITISED LUBRICATION: FROM A HIDDEN MANUAL TASK TO A MEASURABLE PART OF ASSET PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Manual lubrication remains one of the most common maintenance tasks in the industry. However, many companies still rely on operators' memory, handwritten logbooks, or work routines that cannot be verified. The result? Missed lubrication points, excessive grease use, premature failures, and endless debates about who did what exactly.

According to Peter Van Geertruyen, Business Expert in Transmissions & Motion Control, it is high time to stop considering lubrication as a blind routine. "Without insight into your lubrication practices, you're essentially operating on guesswork," he states. "You don't know if the grease is reaching the right spot, if the dosage is correct, or if the proper intervals are being met. Lubrication becomes a gamble, not a manageable process within a modern maintenance strategy."



Lubrication as a determining factor in the P-F curve

Looking at the P-F curve highlights why lubrication deserves more attention. When done correctly, this task is positioned on the far left of the timeline, in the preventive phase, where it has the greatest impact on the performance and lifespan of assets. According to Van Geertruyen, this is exactly where the most gains or damage occur. "Lubrication doesn't belong on a checklist," he emphasises. "It's a fundamental part of asset reliability. If you lack control over this, you waste asset lifespan."

Control starts with insight, and that is exactly what is often missing, according to Van Geertruyen. "In a maintenance strategy like Reliability 5.0, where data and evidence are essential, you need to be able to prove what's been done. Otherwise, you'll be operating on assumptions, and those risks are no longer acceptable today."

Digital solutions in lubrication workflows

Van Geertruyen points to digitisation as a key leverage point. "With a solution like GreaseBoss, you replace paper records with a digital approach, capturing execution data in real time and on-site."...

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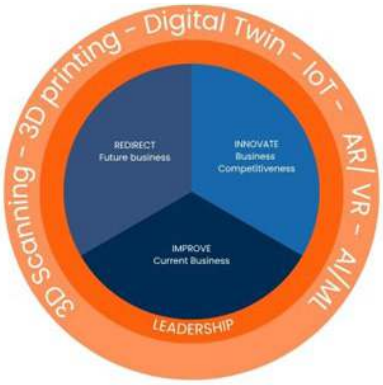
HOW TO STAY COMPETITIVE DURING THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

It is strategically important for companies to remain competitive and profitable by improving, innovating and redirecting their business, now and in the future. This requires them to have their engineering, asset management and manufacturing processes in order. According to PDM's Industrial Excellence philosophy, companies can only start implementing Industry 4.0 technologies when these business processes are properly set up.

Industry 4.0 technologies can help improve the company's competitiveness by increasing the reliability of industrial facilities, reducing maintenance costs, and improving safety, thus having a substantial impact on competitiveness. Promises like these will only be fulfilled if Industry 4.0 is fully adopted, the basic processes are in order and there is strong leadership in the company.

An Industry 4.0 production facility is characterised by the application of technologies such as 3D scanning, additive manufacturing, the digital twin, autonomous systems, Internet of Things (IoT), augmented and virtual reality, artificial intelligence and machine learning. The combined application of these technologies yields the Smart Factory. The goal of such a factory is to create a flexible, responsive, and autonomous production environment that can adapt to changing market conditions, customer needs and supply chain disruptions. Smart Factories can increase productivity, reduce downtime and improve product quality, all while minimizing waste and maximizing resource utilisation.



The promises of Industry 4.0 can only be fulfilled if the basic processes are in order and there is strong leadership in the company.

Carlo Schildermans,
Account Director, PDM

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pdm

FROM SIGNALS TO STRATEGY: HOW ESA AND AI ARE EMPOWERING THE FUTURE OF MAINTENANCE

INTERVIEW WITH MARCO FERREIRA, CEO & CO-FOUNDER OF ENGING – MAKE SOLUTIONS

As industry leaders push toward digital transformation, the challenge remains: how can we make data truly useful for maintenance teams on the ground?

For **Marco Ferreira**, the answer lies in a combination of smart technology and human expertise. As CEO and co-founder of **Enging**, Ferreira has spent years developing and refining **Electrical Signature Analysis (ESA)** – an innovative, non-intrusive technique that uses voltage and current signals to detect developing faults in electrical assets.

"ESA allows us to monitor the health of machines in real time, without shutting them down or adding external sensors," Ferreira explains. "But what's even more exciting is that it enables early fault detection – often before traditional techniques pick up anything."

What sets Enging apart is its pioneering application of ESA to **static assets like transformers**, a domain where most condition monitoring still relies on offline measurements or lab analysis. "We're the first company applying **online ESA to transformers**, and this opens up a whole new realm of predictive maintenance," Ferreira says. "Transformers are critical, expensive assets, and when they fail, the consequences are huge. With our technology, companies can act before failures happen."

But technology alone is not the goal.

"Our philosophy is human-centric," Ferreira emphasises. "Predictive maintenance should **support people**, not replace them. AI can process data and detect patterns at speed, but the real value comes when it **helps people make better, faster decisions."**

That's why the Enging platform prioritises **intuitive dashboards**, clear alerts, and actionable insights. Case studies across sectors like water utilities, cement, petrochemicals, and energy show measurable improvements: **less unplanned downtime, faster fault response, and better energy efficiency.**

Power quality issues – such as harmonic distortion and voltage imbalance – are another focus area. "These are hidden killers," says Ferreira. "They accelerate asset degradation and waste energy, but many companies aren't even measuring them." By embedding power quality monitoring into their ESA solution, Enging helps clients not only detect faults, but also **quantify energy losses and related CO_2 emissions,** giving maintenance professionals powerful arguments for action – even with finance or sustainability teams.

Ferreira is also working with clients to **calculate ROI** on corrective actions based on ESA findings. "We're collaborating with a water utility in Portugal, for example, to benchmark pump inefficiencies, propose interventions, and measure energy savings. That's where digital maintenance becomes a strategic lever."

While the technology continues to evolve, Ferreira remains focused on the human side. "We ask people to bring their challenges, their machines, their pain points. We don't want to just show slides. We want to build solutions together."

That's the spirit he brings to **Asset Performance 2025** – not only as a speaker, but as a workshop host.

JOIN THIS SESSION

EMPOWERING PEOPLE THROUGH MODEL-BASED PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE SUPPORTED BY AI: A HUMAN-CENTRIC APPROACH TO ASSET RELIABILITY

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5, 14:35

Gorilla 1

WORKSHOP

ELECTRICAL SIGNATURE ANALYSIS ON TRANSFORMERS, MOTORS, GENERATORS AND POWER ELECTRONICS

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 16:15

Gorilla 4

Bring your laptop to access the ESA demo platform and explore real-world use cases with Enging's Team.

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FROM COMPLEXITY TO CONNECTIVITY: HOW DATA SPACES ENABLE SECURE, SCALABLE DATA SHARING IN INDUSTRIES

– SEBASTIAN OPRIEL

CTO and Data Space Pioneer at sovity

EXPLORING INDUSTRIAL DATA INNOVATION WITH SEBASTIAN OPRIEL, CTO AND DATA SPACE PIONEER AT SOVITY

For many companies in asset-intensive sectors, the idea of seamlessly exchanging data with partners across the value chain is becoming increasingly achievable. While technical challenges and data silos still exist, a new generation of technology built on the concept of data spaces is turning secure, cross-company collaboration into a practical reality.

Sebastian Opriel, co-founder and CTO of sovity, has been at the forefront of this development. With a background at the Fraunhofer Institute and the first PhD thesis ever written on data spaces, Opriel is uniquely positioned to translate the underlying technology into tangible benefits for industry. Ahead of his keynote and workshop at Asset Performance 2025, we spoke with him about the origins of sovity, the role of data spaces, and what technical managers need to understand to prepare for a data-driven future.

Enabling Data Sharing as a Service

"When I first started working with what was then called Industrial Data Space in 2016, the technology showed great promise, though it initially required deep expertise to implement," Opriel explains. "Most companies didn't have the resources to do this on their own. That's why we founded sovity in 2021: to package all those components, connectors, catalogs, identity services, into an accessible solution."

Sovity now offers both "data space as a service" and "connector as a service", enabling organisations to onboard quickly and securely into decentralised data ecosystems. Opriel compares it to a smartphone: sovity's data space as a service is like the underlying hardware, connectors function like the operating systems, and the use cases are the apps.

Breaking Down the Silos

One persistent challenge in maintenance and asset management is the fragmentation of data across departments, systems, and companies. Opriel believes data spaces are the key to unlocking this value. "Traditional point-to-point data integrations are time-consuming and resource-intensive to scale," he says. "Data spaces standardise and decentralise the process. Once connected, you can plug into the ecosystem and begin exchanging data with partners almost immediately."

The connector plays a central role in this. It links internal data sources to the data space while maintaining control. Most current implementations of Connectors provide only basic data transfer mechanisms while sovity is extending these with additional user-focused features. "You do your homework once," Opriel notes, "and then you can share with trusted partners—securely and selectively."

Dispelling Myths and Misconceptions

As interest continues to grow, Opriel sees it as a positive sign that more people are engaging with the concept of data spaces. However, he emphasises the importance of understanding that realizing their full potential requires active management. "You need to define policies, enforce access controls, and ensure compliance," he explains.

Another important point is the decentralised architecture. Unlike centralised supplier platforms, data spaces are

peer-to-peer. "The data stays with the provider and the consumer," says Opriel. "This significantly reduces systemic risk. In a data space, control and access are distributed, which enhances security."

Scaling Use Cases and Building Interoperability

Sovity is also involved in large-scale European initiatives like the Sm4rtenance project, piloting industrial use cases across diverse technologies. According to Opriel, future challenges will center on interoperability and trusted identities. "We need common standards and verified digital identities to ensure that different data spaces can work together, just like cars can cross borders because they follow shared design principles."

Why It Matters for Maintenance and Asset Managers

What can attendees of Asset Performance 2025 expect from Opriel's presentation? "The message is clear," he says. "To create value from your data, you must be able to share it securely and efficiently. Data spaces make that possible. It's about more than technology; it's about enabling new business models, improving responsiveness, and building resilience."

Companies that embrace secure data sharing will position themselves at the forefront of digital transformation. "The ability to exchange data quickly and securely with partners is becoming a competitive differentiator," Opriel notes. "Those who lead will enhance their business agility and future readiness."

Workshop: A Hands-On Look at Data Spaces in Action

In addition to the keynote, Opriel will host a technical workshop focused on the architecture and practical deployment

> ***WE NEED COMMON STANDARDS AND VERIFIED DIGITAL IDENTITIES TO ENSURE THAT DIFFERENT DATA SPACES CAN WORK TOGETHER, JUST LIKE CARS CAN CROSS BORDERS BECAUSE THEY FOLLOW SHARED DESIGN PRINCIPLES***
>
> **– SEBASTIAN OPRIEL**

of data spaces. Participants will explore how connectors are implemented, how data sharing is configured, and what steps are involved in preparing an organisation for this new model. No programming is required, but expect a deep dive into practical implementation.

"We want to demystify the technology," says Opriel. "If you're a data specialist or digitalisation lead, this is your opportunity to understand what's ahead and how to prepare."

For technical managers navigating the intersection of data, operations, and innovation, Sebastian Opriel's session at Asset Performance 2025 offers essential insights into how data spaces can drive efficiency and collaboration. Don't miss the chance to learn from one of Europe's leading experts on turning complexity into competitive advantage.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

HOW TO SOLVE THE INDUSTRIAL DATA DILEMMA?

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4 AT 09:00

Gorilla 1

WORKSHOP

INDUSTRIAL DATASPACES IN ACTION: ENABLING SECURE DATA SHARING FOR SMARTER MAINTENANCE

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4 AT 14:00

Gorilla 4

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What if you are a company with multiple sites around the world and you want to ensure that all maintenance organisations operate in the same way? Not only to be able to compare performances, but also to formulate a standard working procedure based on best practices. It's quite a challenge, but DS Smith is doing it.

DS Smith is a provider of sustainable packaging solutions, paper products and recycling services. Gareth Morgan, Group Head of Engineering at DS Smith: "We needed a good Maintenance & Assessment Framework usable for several packaging factories, paper mills and recycling plants. The VDM^{XL} methodology from Mainnovation forms the basis for a multi-site assessment programme."

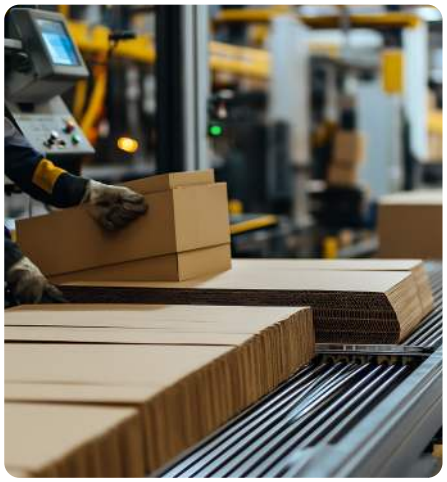
A structured approach

Remco Jonker, Partner at Mainnovation: "To achieve multi-site maintenance excellence, it is essential to adopt a very structured approach. A company-wide improvement program with knowledge exchange, clear objectives, a standardised work process, and a focus on successfully applied best practices." At DS Smith a Global Improvement Program was introduced, to serve as an overarching structure that enables annual benchmarking, and aligning site-specific improvement plans.

Continuous improvement

Morgan: "By encouraging knowledge sharing and the dissemination of best practices across sites, DS Smith was able to foster a culture of continuous improvement while respecting local autonomy. And yes, this brings a smile to everyone's face, including management."

Join the 2.1.1 Multi Site Maintenance Excellence case presentation on November 5, from 9:00 AM to 9:35 AM in Gorilla 1. We hope to see you there.



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FROM RAW DATA TO RELIABLE DECISIONS: HOW YARA'S ANOMALISENSE™ PUTS PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE IN THE HANDS OF TECHNICIANS

In the high-stakes world of process industry operations, where downtime can mean millions in lost production, predictive maintenance offers an exciting opportunity to transform performance, optimise resources, and boost reliability. When done right, it can turn untapped data into a competitive advantage.

At Yara, one of the world's largest nitrogen-based fertilizer producers, this opportunity sparked the creation of AnomaliSense™, an in-house platform focused on human usability and integration into existing workflows. Ahead of their presentation at Asset Performance 2025, we sat down with Perry Jaspers and Madava Dilshan Vithanage to discuss why they built it, how it works, and why the journey started not in a boardroom, but out in the field alongside technicians.

Designing predictive tools for practical impact

Perry, Technical Process Owner Electricity & Automation, has been with Yara for two decades, starting in project organisation and now focusing on operational excellence. In his current global role, he oversees Yara's electrical automation processes, from instrumentation to site-level predictive analysis. He knows the challenges driving the shift toward predictive maintenance first-hand.

"Yara has a big production footprint in Europe, where gas is expensive," he explains. "We have to be more efficient than competitors in regions with cheaper feedstock. With strong traditional maintenance in place, the logical progression for us was to embrace predictive techniques. But our definition is very specific. It starts when a continuous data stream triggers the next action, not when someone just ticks boxes on a field checklist."

> ***PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE IS LIKE AN INSURANCE POLICY. YOU MAY GO MONTHS OR YEARS WITHOUT A MAJOR CATCH – BUT WHEN IT DOES DETECT A LOOMING FAILURE, IT CAN SAVE YOU FROM DISASTER.***

–PERRY JASPERS
Technical Process Owner - Electricity & Automation, Yara Belgium

–MADAVA VITHANGA
Product Manager, Yara Digital Core Solutions

Most off-the-shelf platforms offer a vast range of features, but for Yara the real value lay in a targeted approach. "It's like Excel," Perry says. "Most people only use 5 % of the capabilities. The predictive tools on the market were overkill for what we needed. Our platform needed to be streamlined, adaptable and delivering exactly the insights our teams need without unnecessary complexity."

A sharp focus: low cost, high scalability, seamless integration

That's where Madava, with a background in computer science and electronics, entered the picture. As product manager in Yara's Digital Core Solutions team, his mission was to take Perry's operational challenges and translate them into a tool the Yara plants could actually use.

"Cost and scalability were the biggest hurdles," says Madava. "Most vendor solutions are priced in a way that makes sense for a handful of critical assets, but not for scaling across thousands. We needed the opposite, a low-cost system that could cover a huge asset base without requiring a team of ten people just to operate it."

The team had a head start thanks to Yara's Digital Production Platform, a central data lake streaming process control data from all sites at one-second granularity. This gave them the raw material for advanced analytics without the need for expensive data-gathering projects.

From there, they focused on two design principles: integration over reinvention and human-centred usability. AnomaliSense™ connects to existing third-party tools used within Yara, such as SAP, System 1 and Control Valve App, pulling their specialised analytics into a unified front end. At the same time, the output is designed to be clear and actionable for any maintenance technician, without the need for extensive training or vendor certifications. This combination ensures that the platform works seamlessly with established systems while remaining practical and accessible for the people who use it every day.

Adding context to alerts

Most condition monitoring still works on simple rules: a temperature exceeds its limit, an alert is raised. But in large plants, thousands of such alerts can overwhelm teams, and without context, they often go ignored. AnomaliSense™ addresses this by using a mix of statistical, machine learning, and deep learning models that assess asset behaviour in context. Seasonal variations, process conditions, and correlated sensor data are all considered before deciding whether an alert is truly urgent.

A dynamic prioritisation algorithm ranks the alerts and thus ensures that the most critical issues rise to the top, while nuisance alarms fade into the background. "At one plant, our Integrity Operating Window alerts revealed that a key sensor had been generating warnings for months," says Madava. "It turned out to be a sensor fault, not a process fault – but if it had been real, the cost impact would have been enormous."

Making predictive maintenance part of the day job

Creating AnomaliSense™ wasn't just about software architecture, it was about trust and adoption. The backbone of maintenance at Yara is SAP, so the platform was built to integrate directly into it. Predictive tasks appear alongside preventive work orders, following the same planning, approval, and scheduling steps. This ensured the tool felt like a natural extension of daily work rather than an extra system to manage.

BUILD OR BUY?

Given their success, would they recommend other companies build their own predictive maintenance platform? The answer is nuanced.

"If you only monitor a few assets, building doesn't make sense," says Madava. "But if you want to scale to thousands and existing tools don't fit your needs or budget, building can be the right call." Perry adds that success also depends on strong collaboration between data scientists and field engineers: "We speak different languages, literally and figuratively, but first and foremost, the tool must help our technicians."

"If you push a tool from the top down, you get resistance," says Perry. "We started with specific problems the plants couldn't solve with traditional methods. When you give them something that actually helps, you get buy-in. Now we have eight sites using AnomaliSense™, and it's spreading fast."

Yara's technicians saw an immediate difference. Instead of wrestling with multiple interfaces or deciphering complex analytics dashboards, they received clear, prioritised information in a familiar format. Technicians called it 'a tool built for us, not for someone in an office.' The clarity of alerts and the ability to act without hunting through multiple systems meant less frustration, quicker decisions, and a greater sense of ownership over asset health.

Since its rollout, AnomaliSense™ has allowed sites to act on critical alerts more quickly, while significantly reducing time spent chasing false alarms. In several instances, early detection enabled maintenance teams to plan interventions well in advance, avoiding unexpected downtime and keeping production on track.

What to expect in Antwerp

The presentation at Asset Performance 2025 will dive deeper into AnomaliSense's architecture, use cases, and integration strategy.

"If you can learn one thing from our case," says Perry, "it's to start from the field. Pick a problem your traditional methods can't solve, and use predictive analytics to tackle it. That's how you create value and buy-in from day one."

Madava agrees, but adds a note of caution: "Predictive maintenance is like an insurance policy. You may go months or years without a major catch – but when it does detect a looming failure, it can save you from disaster. Manage expectations, be patient, and scale widely enough to make the returns visible."

For technical managers weighing their own digital transformation strategies, Yara's story is both a reality check and an inspiration. Predictive maintenance doesn't have to be a costly, overcomplicated endeavour. With the right focus, the right data foundation, and above all a commitment to the people who will use it, it can become a natural, trusted part of daily maintenance life. For any plant seeking to turn its data into decisive action, AnomaliSense™ is proof that predictive maintenance can be practical, scalable, and embraced by the very people who keep assets running every day.

Read full article online:

JOIN THIS SESSION

YARA ANOMALISENSE™ DELIVERING HUMAN-CENTERED, ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4 AT 09:35

Gorilla 1

HOW TO SOLVE THE INDUSTRIAL DATA DILEMMA

Every day, our factories, machines, and maintenance teams generate vast oceans of data — yet much of it remains locked away in isolated systems. The result? Missed opportunities, inefficiencies, and slower innovation.

In this keynote, Dr. Sebastian Opriel will introduce dataspaces — the next leap in secure, standardised, and sovereign data sharing. You'll discover how this breakthrough approach is breaking down silos, enabling predictive maintenance at scale, and powering smarter, more connected operations.

From the SM4RTENANCE European initiative to real-world workflows between OEMs and asset operators, you'll leave with a clear vision of how to unlock the full potential of your data and take a decisive step toward collaborative industrial excellence.

Why you should be there:

- See how dataspaces turn isolated data into shared value.
- Learn from real cross-company predictive maintenance examples.
- Understand how to join the European movement for trusted industrial data sharing.

– DR. SEBASTIAN OPRIEL
CTO sovity

MORNING KEYNOTE

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4
AT 09:00

Gorilla 1

HOW TO MAKE EUROPEAN & BELGIAN INDUSTRY GREAT AGAIN?




– PROF. DR. CIND DU BOIS
Professor at the Royal Military Academy (Belgium) and Sciences Po (Paris), Director of Industry and Economic Security at the Belgian Ministry of Defence

– FABRICE BRION
Founder, I-care Group

– GEORGES-LOUIS BOUCHEZ
Politician, MR

– WIM DE VOS
CEO, Campine

On 4 November, the Asset Performance Conference will host a special evening session dedicated to one of the most pressing issues for European and Belgian industry: how to strengthen resilience and competitiveness in a rapidly changing world. Geopolitical instability, disrupted supply chains, and increasing dependencies on critical resources are reshaping the industrial landscape. In this context, questions of industrial sovereignty and economic security have become central to safeguarding long-term performance and prosperity.

The evening programme opens with a keynote by Prof. Dr. Cind Du Bois, Professor at the Royal Military Academy and Sciences Po Paris, and Director for Industry and Economic Security at the Belgian Ministry of Defence. She will provide insights into how Europe can balance openness, security, and innovation while reinforcing its industrial base. Following the keynote, a high-level debate with leaders from politics, industry, and academia will explore practical strategies for resilience, competitiveness, and sovereignty, offering clear takeaways for decision-makers and business leaders alike.

EVENING KEYNOTE & DEBATE

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4
AT 18:45
*More info on p. 28

Gorilla 1

AUTHENTIC INTELLIGENCE: A DO-OR-DIE MOMENT

Organisations in the industrial sector are at a crossroads. Embracing artificial intelligence (AI) isn't optional anymore—it's essential for survival. The real challenge lies in achieving "authentic intelligence": balancing AI's power with uniquely human strengths.

Standing Out in the Age of AI

The question of whether to use AI is already settled. Companies must adopt it to remain competitive. But simply using tools like ChatGPT isn't enough—every business is already doing that. The real differentiator is how strategically AI is deployed alongside human expertise.

Authentic intelligence means creating synergy: letting AI handle massive data processing while people contribute creativity, critical thinking, ethics, and leadership. Companies that achieve this balance will stand out in markets where AI adoption has become the norm.

People at the Center of AI Adoption

Human intelligence still excels in areas machines cannot replace—contextual judgment, emotional intelligence, and innovation. Businesses must therefore train their workforce to use AI as a force multiplier, not a substitute. Culture becomes the ultimate differentiator: organisations that align people and machines will thrive, while those relying on automation alone risk decline.

Lessons from Reliability

The "upstream parable" illustrates the challenge. Lifeguards throwing buoys to drowning swimmers symbolise reactive maintenance—addressing failures only after they occur. A proactive mindset—like building bridges to prevent accidents—reflects precision and predictive maintenance. Similarly, businesses must prevent breakdowns by fine-tuning processes and anticipating issues before they escalate.

Applied to AI, the message is clear: don't just optimise bad practices with new tools. Combine AI adoption with a precision culture that prevents failure and enables sustainable growth.

A Do-or-Die Moment

AI will amplify whatever foundation exists. If your practices are weak, AI will magnify the risks. But if your culture is strong, AI can unlock unprecedented performance. Within a few years, companies that haven't embraced authentic intelligence may struggle—or even disappear.

The future belongs to organisations that treat AI not as a replacement for people, but as a catalyst to elevate them.

This is a do-or-die moment. How will your company respond?

Ready to move from reactive to proactive? Take the next step with us.

Contributed by Tom Rombouts, Reliability Director

Read online:
Visit I-Care at A2

I-care™

JOIN THIS SESSION

OPTIMAL COMBINATION OF GENAI AND RELIABILITY STATISTICS FOR SELECTING THE MOST IMPACTFUL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4 AT 12.25

Gorilla 1

WORKSHOP

TURN MES / CMMS DATA INTO MEASURABLE VALUE

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5 AT 11.15

Gorilla 4

(GENERATIVE) AI TO BOOST ASSET RELIABILITY

BOOSTING ASSET PERFORMANCE WITH INTELLIGENCE AND AUTOMATION

In today's fast-evolving industrial landscape, asset reliability is no longer just about maintenance – it's about foresight, agility and intelligence. At the heart of this transformation lies Artificial Intelligence and, more specifically, Generative AI which is redefining how we monitor, predict and optimise asset performance.

At the Asset Performance conference, we are showcasing how AI technologies – ranging from predictive analytics to autonomous robotics – are driving a new era of reliability.

One of the most exciting developments is the integration of Boston Dynamics' Spot, the robot dog equipped with sensors and cameras, capable of autonomously inspecting facilities, capturing thermal images and identifying anomalies in real time. Spot brings data to life, feeding into AI models that learn, adapt and improve over time.

A step further is using Generative AI to synthesise large amounts of data, generate insights and propose solutions. Spot will not only detect a potential failure but will also draft a maintenance plan, estimate downtime impact and communicate with your team all autonomously. Combined with predictive analytics, these technologies will enable organisations to move from reactive to proactive asset management. By analysing historical data, sensor inputs and environmental factors, AI models can forecast failures before they happen, optimise maintenance schedules and reduce unplanned downtime.

The result is higher reliability, lower costs and safer operations.

Discover how PwC Belgium can help you transform tomorrow: https://www.pwc.be/en/industry-sector/industrial-manufacturing.html

Read online:
Visit PwC at B3

pwc

HIGHSAIL: AI BUILT FOR THE FRONTLINE OF FIELD OPERATIONS

Field service keeps the real economy running: industrial cooling, energy, infrastructure. But technicians and back-office teams are under constant pressure. Skilled labor is scarce, the workload keeps rising, and every delay eats into margins. Yet teams still lose hours rewriting job notes, updating checklists, and chasing missing information across systems.

Highsail changes that. **Technicians can log their work or updates through voice, photos, or short notes.** Highsail's AI instantly transforms these voice notes into structured reports, updates ERP systems, and triggers follow-up actions automatically. What used to take hours of post-job admin now happens in real-time, in the field.

Already live at companies like Climagroup and Elneo, customers see direct ROI, better data quality translates into faster job completion, reducing administrative overhead by over 70% and directly improving their margins and customer satisfaction. Backed by Entourage VC, we're scaling across Europe to support the people who keep buildings running and machines working.

Find us at booth D2 for a live demo!

Read online:
Visit Highsail at D2

Highsail

FEATURED CASES

Tuesday November 4 at 09:35

Yara – Delivering Human-Centered, Actionable Insights
Yara's AnomaliSense™ turns raw operational data into actionable insights for all user levels. Integrated with SAP, it embeds predictive maintenance directly into workflows, boosting reliability and asset availability. Key focus: standardisation, user-friendly design, and expert collaboration for smarter maintenance decisions.

Tuesday November 4 at 10:10

Saudi Aramco – Asset Prediction Analytics (APA) Solution for Failure Predictions and Performance Monitoring
APA enables remote monitoring and failure prediction using mechanical, thermal, process, and performance models. Engineers receive real-time alerts via interactive dashboards, shifting from reactive to proactive strategies. Results: higher reliability, reduced field visits, and measurable maintenance savings.

Tuesday November 4 at 11:50

Etex – Driving Operational Insight and Compliance through Integrated Power BI Dashboards
Etex and Anchr use Power BI to integrate ERP, MES, and finance data into a single source of truth. The dashboards support compliance, ESG tracking, and performance monitoring, aligning plant-level metrics with corporate strategy for continuous improvement.

Tuesday November 4 at 15:10

Otary – AI-Powered Offshore Wind Maintenance: A Planner's New Optimiser
Otary and Coteng replaced spreadsheets with a digital twin-based planning tool. It integrates weather, vessel, and production forecasts to optimise offshore wind maintenance schedules, cutting losses and reducing dependency on individual expertise.

Tuesday November 4 at 16:15

Saudi Aramco – Leveraging GenAI to Revolutionise Maintenance and Reliability: A Case Study on Predictive Analytics and Proactive Troubleshooting
GenAI Pro Advisor uses a knowledge base of 7,000+ documents for predictive analytics and troubleshooting. It has delivered early anomaly detection, improved MTBF by 30%, and reduced environmental impact through planned interventions.

Tuesday November 4 at 16:50

Sonaca – Scalable CNC Machine Condition Monitoring with Siemens Brownfield Connectivity Gateway
The Siemens Brownfield Connectivity Gateway connects legacy CNC machines to real-time analytics. It standardises data, supports predictive maintenance, and ensures cybersecurity, enabling scalable monitoring and better operational transparency in aerospace manufacturing.

FEATURED CASES

Tuesday November 4 at 14:35

Aquafin – Maximizing Asset Life: How the Asset Health Index Drives Smarter Decisions

Aquafin uses AHI to quantify asset condition, prioritise interventions, and align maintenance with capital planning. Visual dashboards communicate asset health internally and externally, extending asset life and reducing costs.

Tuesday November 4 at 17:25

SWDE – Improve the Planning of Technicians with a Mobile Solution on Smartphone

SWDE optimised technician scheduling with SAP Field Service Management and mobile apps. The system improves efficiency, reduces paperwork, and provides real-time status updates, enhancing both technician productivity and customer service.

Wednesday November 5 at 09:00

DS Smith – Multi-Site Maintenance Excellence

Using the VDMXL framework, DS Smith standardised maintenance practices across diverse sites. Annual benchmarking, shared KPIs, and knowledge exchange drive continuous improvement while balancing central governance with local autonomy.

Wednesday November 5 at 09:35

De Lijn – Optimising Maintenance Operations: How De Lijn Transformed Technician Efficiency with a Mobile-First Approach

De Lijn and Emixa introduced a mobile SAP app to replace paper-based work orders. Benefits include faster data capture, improved first-time fix rates, and real-time visibility between planners and field teams.

Wednesday November 5 at 11:15

Saudi Aramco – Achieving Maintenance & Reliability Excellence Through Asset Reliability, Digitalisation, and Human Reliability

Abqaiq integrates predictive diagnostics, customised lifecycle strategies, and workforce training. Dashboards and SAP integration provide real-time asset visibility, while leadership development ensures sustained performance.

Wednesday November 5 at 12:25

Evonik – SkillsUpp: Evaluation & Monitoring Safety and Maintenance Procedures

Evonik and Karel de Grote Hogeschool developed SkillsUpp, a simulation-based framework to measure training effectiveness. By monitoring behaviour in realistic scenarios, they identify skill gaps and improve compliance with safety and maintenance procedures.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME*
NOVEMBER 4TH 2025

	KEYNOTE	Gorilla 1
09:00	**1.0.1 HOW TO SOLVE THE INDUSTRIAL DATA DILEMMA?** *Dr. Sebastian Opriel, CTO at sovity GmbH* · Introduces dataspaces as federated data ecosystems enabling secure and sovereign data exchange · Details components such as connectors, IAM, governance layers, and semantic models · Showcases SM4RTENANCE's approach to cross-sector data sharing and predictive maintenance · Demonstrates a real-world workflow for predictive maintenance using shared operational data	

TRACK 1.1	PREDICTIVE & PRESCRIPTIVE MAINTENANCE	Gorilla 1
09:35 CASE	**1.1.1 YARA ANOMALISENSE™ – DELIVERING HUMAN-CENTERED, ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS** *Perry Jaspers, Technical Process Owner - Electricity & Automation at Yara Belgium nv* *+ Madava Vithanga, Product Manager at Yara Digital Core Solutions* · Yara's maintenance standardisation and maturity journey · AnomaliSense™ as an intuitive multi-source diagnostic interface · SAP integration to embed insights into maintenance planning · Value creation through data accessibility and expert collaboration	
10:10 CASE	**1.1.2 AQUAFIN: UNLOCKING INSIGHTS FROM SMART AUTOMATED AERATION TESTS** *Wouter Maenhout, Process Engineer, Aquafin* · Enabling predictive maintenance through automated aeration testing · Using data analytics to optimize energy use and reduce costs · Improving asset reliability and lifespan with continuous monitoring · Applying Industry 4.0 in wastewater treatment operations	
11:15	**1.1.3 SMART MINING STARTS WITH TRUST – BRIDGING OT AND AI THROUGH REAL-WORLD COLLABORATION** *Colin Burg, Reliability Solutions Manager Benelux at Emerson* *+ Jeromy Snel, Business Development & Sales Manager at OPTECS* · Explore AI use in mining · Hydrocyclone roping detection as a representative AI use case · Emphasis on collaboration as a foundation for innovation · Insight into bridging IT/OT through shared vision and respect	
11:50 CASE	**1.1.4 DRIVING OPERATIONAL INSIGHT AND COMPLIANCE THROUGH INTEGRATED POWER BI DASHBOARDS – CASE ETEX** *David Van Hecke, Business Process Manager at Etex* *+ Thomas Wouters, Sales & Partnership at Anchr* · Power BI integration for unified operational insight · Regulatory, ESG, and asset performance reporting · Scalable dashboard design and automated workflows · Strategic alignment from plant floor to corporate level	
12:25	**1.1.5 OPTIMAL COMBINATION OF GENAI AND RELIABILITY DATA ANALYTICS FOR SELECTING THE MOST IMPACTFUL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS** *Tom Rombouts, Reliability & Data Driven Solutions Director at I-care Group* · Use of GenAI to process maintenance logs and sensor data for latent failure pattern detection. · Application of reliability statistics (MTBF, failure frequency, criticality) to screen project candidates. · Development of a ranking tool that integrates AI outputs with impact scoring. · Demonstrated gains in project selection accuracy (+30–40%) and operational reliability (+15%).	

** Conference programme on the moment of publication may be subject to change.*

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14:00

1.1.6 IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AI DECISION ENGINE FOR PRODUCTION OPTIMISATION

Markus Ahorner, CEO at Ahorner & Innovators

- Real-time identification of best operating practices
- AI algorithm based on plant archive data and k-NN logic
- Deployment requirements and speed of implementation
- Business benefits in cost and productivity metrics

14:35

1.1.7 MULTI-WEEK ROLLING SCHEDULE: THE FOUNDATION OF A SUSTAINABLE PLANNED WORK CULTURE IN THE AI ERA

Jean Charbonneau, President at CiM Maintenance

- Implementation of IPSPEC planning cycle
- Overcoming urgency-driven reactive maintenance
- Role clarity and teamwork standardisation
- Benefits of sustained planning in AI-enhanced environments

15:10

CASE

1.1.8 AI-POWERED OFFSHORE WIND MAINTENANCE: A PLANNER'S NEW OPTIMISER

Didier Stickens, Managing Director at Coteng

- Offshore maintenance planning using dynamic AI tools
- Energy production forecasting for loss minimisation
- Data integration from multiple internal systems
- Reduced planning errors and knowledge dependency

16:15

CASE

1.1.9 ENHANCING PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE USING RESIDUAL-BASED AI AND FLEET SIMILARITY ANALYSIS – CASE TURBOFAN ENGINES

Aman Singhvi, Flight & HMI Engineer, Conscious Aerospace

- Real-world engine maintenance data improves the accuracy and practical relevance of predictive AI models
- Fleet similarity analysis enables meaningful cross-engine comparisons, yielding measurable gains in fault detection performance
- Interpretable models using physically relevant inputs and LIME analysis foster confidence in AI-supported maintenance strategiescs

16:50

CASE

1.1.10 SCALABLE CNC MACHINE CONDITION MONITORING WITH SIEMENS BROWNFIELD CONNECTIVITY GATEWAY

Jitse Cammaert, Portfolio Consultant at Siemens & Antonio Fortuna, CEO at Magnet

- CNC machine diagnostics using Siemens analytics platform
- Data standardisation and connectivity for legacy assets
- Visualisation and reporting with Mendix applications
- Cybersecurity and cloud integration readiness

17:25

CASE

1.1.11 ASSET MANAGEMENT IN A GREENFIELD 4.0 FACTORY

Dylan Iannello, Tactical Operation Manager at Safran

+ Anthony Van Heymbeeck, Senior Management Consultant Strategy & Operations at PwC

TRACK 1.2 : ASSET DATA MANAGEMENT — *Gorilla 3*

09:35

ACADEMIC

1.2.1 DEXPI - GETTING STARTED WITH ASSET INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Dr. Wilhelm Otten, Member of the board, head of networking group at DEXPI & Dr. Michael Wiedau, Data Excellence Expert at Evonik Industries

- Transitioning from analog documentation to integrated digital models
- DEXPI's role in enabling AI, smart maintenance, and sustainability
- Harmonisation with global standards (CFIHOS, USPI, JIP)
- Improved collaboration and reduced engineering effort via standardised data

10:10

1.2.2 ASSET ADMINISTRATION SHELL, THE OPEN STANDARD FOR DIGITAL TWIN

Willem Offermans, Program Manager Digitalisation at Ebert HERA Services

- AAS as a core component of Industry 4.0 architecture
- Data model standardisation for asset-related information
- Scalability through technology-neutral serialisation formats
- Enabling cross-company data exchange with common semantics

11:15

1.2.3 GENAI-POWERED MAINTENANCE DATA RETRIEVAL & REASONING SOLUTION

Peter Mees, Solution Architect at Rebatch

- Intelligent search with contextualised document navigation
- Multilingual translation for global workforce alignment
- Secure on-premise AI deployment for data-sensitive environments
- Reduced onboarding time and improved knowledge retention

11:50

1.2.4 P&ID MIGRATION INTO ALM-SYSTEMS LEVERAGING AI

Frank Hertling, CEO & Founder at Graph-Co

+ Laurenz Merth, CTO at Graph-Co

- AI-based system for automated P&ID digitisation
- Elimination of manual correction via intelligent processing
- Enhanced safety and collaboration through standardisation
- Real-world outcomes from a chemical sector case study

15:10

CASE

1.2.5 LESS MAINTENANCE AND HIGHER PERFORMANCE THROUGH A DIGITAL CENTRAL TOWER - CASE RAIL SAFETY

Thomas Brekelmans, CCO at AnyWare, Asset Management Cloud

+ Jorn Sprangers, Business Development Manager at Dual Inventive

- Continuous monitoring of rail safety devices using AnyWare platform
- Asset performance logging and remote diagnostics
- Unified control tower enabling multi-party collaboration
- Reduced maintenance needs and improved safety outcomes

TRACK 1.3 : ASSET MANAGEMENT 5.0 — *Gorilla 4*

14:00

1.3.1 EYE ON DATA: TRANSFORMING ASSET MANAGEMENT THROUGH DIGITAL INNOVATION

Lander Dufour, Founder at I-Link

- Use of real-time IIoT data for informed asset decisions
- Lifecycle cost optimisation through predictive tools
- Role of field engagement in enhancing digital adoption
- Data-centric approach to compliance and operational resilience

14:35

CASE

1.3.2 MAXIMIZING ASSET LIFE: HOW THE ASSET HEALTH INDEX DRIVES SMARTER DECISIONS - CASE AQUAFIN

Joris Dircx, Manager Asset Data at Aquafin

+ Andreas Mels, Reliability Engineer at Aquafin

- AHI as a KPI for prioritizing interventions
- Impact of AHI on extending asset life and reducing costs
- Dashboarding techniques for internal and external use
- Differentiated health modeling for linear vs. nonlinear assets

15:10

1.3.3 HOW TO UNLOCK THE FULL POTENTIAL OF PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE (PDM)?

Fokke van Houten, Sr. Business consultant at MaxGrip EMEA

+ Eric Vroon, Programme Manager Predictive Maintenance at RET

- Common implementation blockers and how to address them
- Importance of a maturity model for PdM success
- Survey-based insights on real-world PdM deployments
- Business impact through structured and sustained PdM practices

16:15

1.3.4 THE HUMAN ASSET AT THE CORE: GENAI AND AR FOR KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY

Jan-Willem Steur, Business Development Manager at ZNAPZ

- Application of Generative AI to capture and transmit field expertise
- Integration of AR to provide live, visual procedural guidance
- Strategy aligns with principles of Asset Management 5.0
- Enhances technician performance and operational reliability through digital augmentation

16:50

1.3.5 FORCE MULTIPLIER: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ENABLES MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITIES

Chloé Meyer, Senior Research Director at Bluefield Research & Maria Cardenal, Analyst, Bluefield Research

- AI as a force multiplier in utility operations and planning
- Real-world cases of predictive maintenance and service optimisation
- Roadmap for upskilling and workforce transformation
- Data integration and regulatory strategies for sustainable AI use

17:25 CASE

1.3.6 IMPROVE THE PLANNING OF TECHNICIANS WITH A MOBILE SOLUTION ON SMARTPHONE – CASE SWDE

Henri Pecheur, Directeur Optimisation Maintenance at SWDE

+ Alain Renault, BU Director at sqli

- SWDE's transformation from paper to mobile scheduling
- Integration of client portals and backend SAP systems
- Real-time technician status tracking and task updates
- Benefits of automating intervention planning across workflows

TRACK 1.4: WORKSHOPS — *Gorilla 4*

13:00

1.4.1 HANDS ON WITH READY4 ASSET MANAGEMENT: TURNING INSPECTIONS (CHECKLIST) INTO STRATEGIC INSIGHTS – SOA PEOPLE

Geert Gysel, IP Practice Manager Belux, SOA People & Christoph Labedzki, SAP Solution Architect, SOA People

- Live demonstration of R4AM's integration with SAP using a digital checklist workflow
- Real-time KPI visualisation in Smart Cockpit for strategic insight generation
- Full walkthrough of the digital maintenance lifecycle from notification to execution
- Focus on enabling higher reliability, lower costs, and improved decision-making through data-driven APM

14:00

1.4.2 INDUSTRIAL DATASPACES IN ACTION: ENABLING SECURE DATA SHARING FOR SMARTER MAINTENANCE – SOVITY

Dr. Sebastian Opriel, CTO, sovity

- Explores technical components of dataspaces, including connectors, IAM, and semantic models
- Features live demonstration of cross-organisational data sharing for maintenance purposes
- Presents use cases from SM4RTENANCE highlighting predictive and collaborative maintenance
- Encourages dialogue on integration, security, and governance in data-driven operations

16:15

1.4.3 ELECTRICAL SIGNATURE ANALYSIS ON TRANSFORMERS, MOTORS, GENERATORS AND POWER ELECTRONICS - ENGING

Marco Ferreira, CEO, Enging

- Demonstrates the application of Electrical Signature Analysis (ESA) for real-time condition monitoring of key electrical assets
- Highlights AI-supported, model-driven diagnostics enabling predictive maintenance without invasive methods
- Emphasises human-centric digital transformation through intuitive dashboards and actionable insights
- Showcases integration of ESA tools into operational workflows for improved uptime, efficiency, and safety

CONFERENCE EVENT: HOW TO MAKE EUROPEAN & BELGIAN INDUSTRY GREAT AGAIN?

18:00 RECEPTION

18:45 WELCOME BY DIRK DE NUTTE, PRESIDENT OF BEMAS

18:50

KEYNOTE: ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND INDUSTRIAL SOVEREIGNTY IN A CHANGING GEOPOLITICAL WORLD: IT'S A BALANCING ACT

Prof. Dr. Cind Du Bois, Professor at the Royal Military Academy (Belgium) and Sciences Po (Paris), Director of Industry and Economic Security at the Belgian Ministry of Defence

- Strategic Landscape 2025–2035: Europe and Belgium in an Uncertain World
- Economic Security as a New Strategic Framework for Industry
- It's a balancing act
- Innovation and Maintenance as Resilience Multipliers
- What industry can learn from defence and vice versa?
- Practical key take-aways

19:25

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DEBATE: HOW CAN EUROPEAN AND BELGIAN INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES BECOME MORE RESILIENT AND COMPETITIVE TO FACE THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES AHEAD?

Georges-Louis Bouchez, *Chairman of the liberal MR party and strong advocate for European competitiveness;* Wim De Vos, *CEO of Campine, bringing critical insights on the challenges industries in Belgium and Europe face and how to overcome these challenges;* Fabrice Brion, *CEO and Co-founder of I-care Group, talking about how innovative solutions in maintenance and asset management improve resilience and competitiveness of our industries;* Prof. Dr. Cind Du Bois, *who delivered the keynote prior to the debate.*

Together, they explore how Europe can navigate the current challenging times and emerge stronger. Some topics that will be addressed:

- The importance Securing Critical Technologies, Raw Materials and Energy Supplies
- Industrial Competitiveness in a High-Cost Region
- Innovation & Maintenance as Resilience Multipliers
- Talent & Skills for a Sovereign Industrial Base
- How to finance Resilience and Industrial Sovereignty?
- Key takeaways for decision-makers and industry leaders

20:00 WALKING DINNER

TRACK 1.5:	INNOVATION PITCHES	*Gorilla 4*
09:35	SIEMENS	
09:50	pwc	
10.05	EMERSON	
10:20	createc	
10:35	SPARETECH	

NOVEMBER 5TH 2025

TRACK 2.1:	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN MAINTENANCE & ASSET MANAGEMENT	*Gorilla 1*
09:00 CASE	**2.1.1 MULTI SITE MAINTENANCE EXCELLENCE - CASE DS SMITH** *Gareth Morgan, Group Head of Engineering, at DS Smith* *+ Remco Jonker, Partner at Mainnovation* • DS Smith's multi-site reliability improvement strategy • Use of VDMXL to develop shared maintenance language • Benchmark-driven maturity assessments and targets • Lessons from implementation across varied operational contexts	DS Smith
09:35 CASE	**2.1.2 OPTIMISING MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS: HOW DE LIJN TRANSFORMED TECHNICIAN EFFICIENCY WITH A MOBILE-FIRST APPROACH - CASE DE LIJN** *Yentl Wynants, Consultant at Emixa* • De Lijn's transformation to digital, mobile-enabled maintenance • Integration of SAP with custom mobile applications • Productivity and data quality improvements in the field • Demonstration of mobile workflow and reporting capabilities	DE LIJN
10:10	**2.1.3 30 YEARS OF SAP CHANGE — SAME MAINTENANCE HEADACHES? A PRAGMATIC PLAYBOOK WITH READY FOR ASSET MANAGEMENT (R4AM)** *Mathias Hertecant, Account Manager at SOA People & Geert Gysel, IP Practice Manager Belux, SOA People* • Implementation of Ready4AssetManagement in SAP landscape • Process and master data prerequisites for success • User experience strategies for adoption and scalability • Real-world lessons from digital CMMS deployment	
11:15 CASE	**FROM SENSORS TO STRATEGY: OPTIMIZING COMPRESSOR AND TURBINE MAINTENANCE THROUGH DATA ACQUISITION** *Ben Monsieur, Project manager Electric & Instrument, Equans* *+ Xavier Weekers, Operations manager industrial projects, Equans*	EQUANS
11:50	**2.1.5 HUMAN CENTRIC APPROACH IN ASSET DATA MANAGEMENT USING IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGIES (XR, MR, VR, AR)** *Koen Penneman, Co-founder at CHENEXT Technologies* • Field access to real-time data via AR/MR headsets • Simulated training environments using VR • Collaborative remote troubleshooting using immersive platforms • Enhancing asset visibility and operator efficiency with digital twins	

12:25

ACADEMIC

CASE

2.1.6 SKILLSUPP: EVALUATION & MONITORING SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES - CASE EVONIK

Werner Van Acker, Manager Technical Governance at Evonik Antwerpen

+ Deborah Hilderson, Lecturer at KdG

+ Geert Van De Weyer, Lecturer at KdG

- Overview of SkillsUpp platform and evaluation principles
- Application to Evonik's SafetyStreet training initiative
- Insights from simulation pilot and observed behaviours
- Potential for industry-wide adoption of structured assessments

14:00

ACADEMIC

2.1.7 RUL PREDICTION AND MAINTENANCE OPTIMISATION USING BAYESIAN NETWORKS

Erik Hostens, Senior Research Engineer at Flanders Make

- Holistic RUL prediction using probabilistic modeling
- Risk-cost trade-off optimisation for maintenance actions
- Practical examples of condition-based Bayesian reasoning
- Tools for communicating and justifying data-driven maintenance plans

14:35

2.1.8 EMPOWERING PEOPLE THROUGH MODEL-BASED PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE SUPPORTED BY AI: A HUMAN-CENTRIC APPROACH TO ASSET RELIABILITY

Marco Ferreira, CEO at Enging & Jorge Estima, VP Products at Enging

- Model-based predictive maintenance supported by Electrical Signature Analysis enhances human decision-making.
- Real-world case studies demonstrate improvements in reliability, safety, and downtime reduction.
- Emphasis on intuitive tools and workforce involvement ensures sustainable digital adoption.
- Future-focused insights on evolving maintenance roles and necessary competencies in AI-integrated environments.

15:10

2.1.9 FROM IDEA TO IMPACT: HOW AI IS POWERING ASSET MANAGEMENT TODAY

Johan Fleerackers - Manufacturing & Operations Senior Manager, Accenture

- Predictive maintenance reduced downtime and costs
- AI improved planning and resource use
- Smarter decision making with AI

TRACK 2.2 : RELIABILITY 5.0 — *Gorilla 3*

09:00

2.2.1 RCM IN EAM

Bram van Laeken, Senior Sales Consultant at IFS Ultimo

- Integrating RCM logic into EAM platforms
- Applying RCA and 5 Whys for reliability improvement
- AI-enhanced support for failure analysis and action planning
- Tips for successful RCM rollout in asset-intensive organisations

09:35

2.2.2 OPTIMISING RELIABILITY AND AVAILABILITY IN ACETIC ACID PRODUCTION: A DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH

Qiying Yin, Founder at ProAIM & Jamie Borley, Senior Reliability Consultant at ProAIM

- Structured RAM analysis and modeling for process industries
- Site-specific failure database and simulation-based planning
- Redundancy, condition monitoring, and spare parts optimisation
- Cost-effective strategies to enhance system reliability and uptime

10:10

2.2.3 SMART LUBRICATION INTEGRATION: LEVERAGING BASIC LEVEL DATA FOR MAINTENANCE EFFICIENCY

Rienk Minderman, Business Leader Software at Van Meeuwen Lubrication

- Human-centric lubrication digitalisation case study
- Early benefits with low-tech data sources
- User adoption as key success factor
- Stepwise scaling of lubrication solutions

11:15

2.2.4 DIGITALISATION IN LUBRICATION – FUTURE PROOF STANDARDS AND CONCEPT IMPLEMENTATION USING STATE OF THE ART TECHNOLOGY AND AI SUPPORT

Wojciech Majka, President of the Board, CEO at Ecol

- Digital transformation of lubrication management in power generation
- AI-supported diagnostics for predictive maintenance
- Case-based demonstration of efficiency and waste reduction
- Real-time data integration and planning automation

11:50

2.2.5 TAKE CONTROL OF MANUAL LUBRICATION: DIGITISING TO GAIN VISIBILITY

Tim Hall, CEO at Greaseboss

+ Peter Van Geertruyen, Business Expert Transmissions & Motor Control at Dexis Belgium

- Manual greasing practices often lack visibility, control, and verification
- Smart lubrication systems guide technicians and record point-of-use data
- Digital solutions help prevent missed points and overgreasing incidents
- Lubrication becomes an integrated, auditable part of asset management strategies

12:25

CASE

2.2.6 LTARP @INEOS STYROLUTION: CONDITION & RISK BASED MULTISITE LONG TERM ASSET REPLACEMENT PLAN - CASE INEOS

Toon Van Melckebeke, VP Global Operational Excellence at Ineos Styrolution

- Reliability improvement does not always require replacement—targeted maintenance and system upgrades often suffice.
- Structured LTARP frameworks enable multisite standardization of reliability risk assessment.
- Integration of asset condition, criticality, and known failure modes strengthens proactive planning.
- Embedding reliability into asset lifecycle planning supports budget alignment, production continuity, and safety.

14:00

2.2.7 CONTEXT IS KEY: ENHANCING ELECTRIC MOTOR RELIABILITY AND MAINTENANCE THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE DIAGNOSTICS

Bram Vervisch, Innovation Manager at ORBITS

- Root cause analysis enriched with operational context
- Field diagnostics informed by technical and organisational data
- Actionable reporting frameworks to support decision-making
- Use cases showing improved maintenance accuracy and efficiency

14:35

2.2.8 HOW TO KEEP TRACK OF TRANSFORMER FLEET HEALTH

Hans Rigole, Expert Condition Monitoring Transformers

- Transformer health monitoring via OneBoard 2.0
- Centralised visibility into fleet diagnostics and trends
- Strategic planning using HI and RLA outputs
- Use of platform tools for predictive maintenance decisions

15:10

ACADEMIC

2.2.9 FIBER OPTIC SENSING FOR BEARING HEALTH MONITORING

Steven Michiels, Senior Research Engineer at Flanders Make

- Strain-based fault detection using OFBGs
- Enhanced diagnostics in space-constrained systems
- Pilot study results and sensor validation
- Outlook for broader industrial adoption of fiber sensing

TRACK 2.3: WORKSHOPS — *Gorilla 4*

09:35

2.3.1 BREAKING SILOS, BUILDING UPTIME – SECURING ENTERPRISE RELIABILITY IN A NEW ERA - EMERSON

Alexandre Dussourd, AMS Device Manager & Optics Sales Manager, Europe, Emerson & Kristof Heyndrickx, Senior Business Developement Manager, Emerson

- Demonstrates strategies for integrating maintenance, operations, IT, and data teams through a unified, cyber-resilient reliability framework.
- Explains how to securely transmit asset health data from field devices to decision-makers, enabling actionable insights from previously fragmented information.
- Presents role-specific dashboard approaches and practical methods to accelerate reliability-driven change across industrial organisations.

11:15

2.3.2 TURN MES / CMMS DATA INTO MEASURABLE VALUE - I-CARE GROUP

Tom Rombouts, Reliability & Data Driven Solutions Director
Tom Van de Peer, Reliability Engineer, & Michel Mariën, Industrial Data Scientist, I-care Group

- Use MES data to identify problematic products and optimise preventive maintenance.
- Apply Reliability Data Analytics to uncover improvement opportunities missed by standard metrics.
- Analyse CMMS data for patterns in equipment failure history and instability.
- Align data-driven reliability improvements with measurable business value

TRACK 2.4:	INNOVATION PITCHES	*Gorilla 4*
14:00	SAP	
14:15	Ultimo	
14:30	CHENEXT	
14:45	EQUANS	
15:00	COSMOTECH	
15:15	pdm	
15:30	Highsail	

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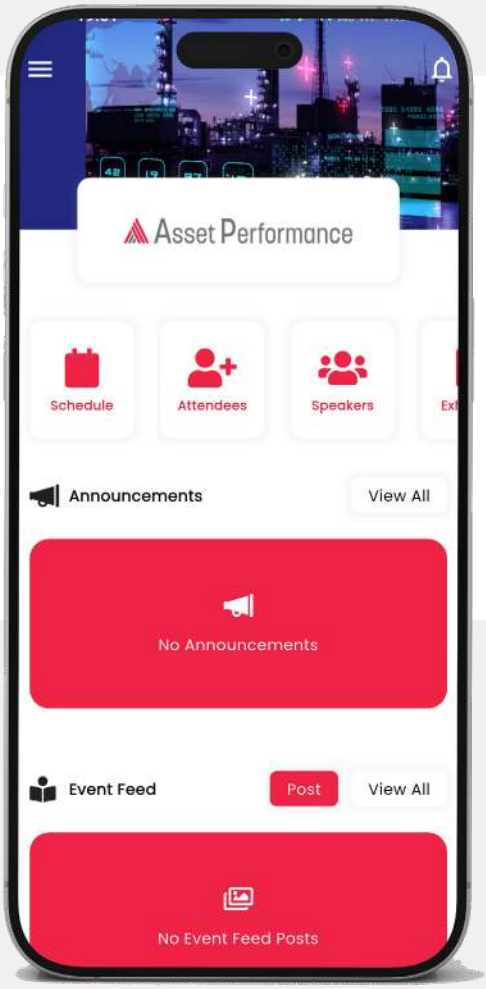

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FEATURED WORKSHOPS

SOA PEOPLE
Inspire Performance

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 11:15

Gorilla 4

HANDS ON WITH READY4 ASSET MANAGEMENT: TURNING INSPECTIONS (CHECKLIST) INTO STRATEGIC INSIGHTS

In this interactive workshop, Christoph Labedzki and Geert Gysel present a hands-on demonstration of how Ready4 Asset Management (R4AM), a CMMS/EAM add-on for SAP, elevates inspection data from routine checklists to actionable strategic insights. Participants engage directly with a digital maintenance checklist accessed via QR code, simulating a full end-to-end digital maintenance workflow. The session guides attendees through the complete digital process: notification generation, work order planning, spare part and task preparation, visual scheduling, and mobile execution by field technicians. Emphasis is placed on how real-time data and integration with SAP enhance asset reliability, reduce downtime, and support proactive performance monitoring.

Dynamox
ENGING

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 16:00

Gorilla 4

ELECTRICAL SIGNATURE ANALYSIS FOR PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE

For professionals seeking advanced yet accessible tools to improve equipment uptime and safety, this workshop delivers a hands-on introduction to Electrical Signature Analysis (ESA). Attendees will discover how non-invasive, AI-enhanced ESA techniques can transform the way transformers, motors, generators, and power electronics are monitored—moving beyond traditional maintenance methods. With a strong focus on human-centric design, the session highlights how intuitive dashboards and real-time insights empower maintenance teams to act with speed and confidence. Ideal for reliability engineers and maintenance leaders, this workshop equips participants with the knowledge to integrate ESA into their predictive strategies and digital roadmaps.

I-care™

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5, 11:15

Gorilla 4

TURN MES / CMMS DATA INTO MEASURABLE VALUE

This workshop explores how to transform MES and CMMS data into actionable insights that improve reliability, efficiency, and business performance. Using real industrial examples, I-care demonstrates how advanced Reliability Data Analytics and proprietary tools uncover hidden patterns such as underperforming production codes, ineffective maintenance strategies, and equipment instability, that traditional metrics often miss. Attendees will learn how to detect early signs of reliability decrease and or improvement, quantify improvement potential, and align initiatives with measurable financial value.

SOVITY

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 14:00

Gorilla 4

APPLYING DATASPACES IN INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE AND PRODUCTION

This interactive workshop offers a rare opportunity to move beyond theory and see dataspaces in action. Attendees will gain a practical, technical understanding of how federated data sharing can be securely applied across maintenance and production environments. Through real-world examples from the SM4RTENANCE project and a live demonstration, participants will learn how dataspaces support predictive maintenance, enable cross-company collaboration, and facilitate smarter asset management. Designed for technical leaders and digital transformation professionals, the session also provides a platform for peer exchange, allowing participants to explore integration challenges, governance models, and the next steps in making data sovereignty a reality in their own operations.

EMERSON

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5, 09:00

Gorilla 4

BREAKING SILOS, BUILDING UPTIME – SECURING ENTERPRISE RELIABILITY IN A NEW ERA

Discover how to align maintenance, operations, IT, and data teams around a unified, cyber-resilient reliability strategy. This workshop explores the secure flow of asset health insights from field devices to decision-makers, turning fragmented data into actionable intelligence. Learn practical tactics to replace guesswork with clarity, tailor dashboards for every role, and accelerate change across your organisation. Ideal for technical professionals and leaders driving uptime in today's high-stakes industrial environment.

Dynamox
ENGING

Don't wait for your assets to fail.

Anticipate. Prevent. Optimize.

What if you could see transformer failures before they happen without installing a single sensor?

Enging is pioneering a radical shift in predictive maintenance. Using advanced Electrical Signature Analysis (ESA), we are the only company in the world monitoring power transformers fully online and non-intrusively, leveraging existing CTs and VTs already installed in your substation. No extra hardware. No downtime. Just real-time insights that protect your most critical electrical assets.

A NEW STANDARD FOR TRANSFORMER HEALTH MONITORING

Our solution, PreditTransf, unlocks early fault detection using data you're already collecting - monitoring dozens of electrical parameters like excitation current, OLTC dynamics, and symmetrical components. It helps utilities and industrial operators detect issues like insulation failure, short-circuits, and OLTC degradation weeks or months in advance, turning maintenance into a strategic asset.

SMARTER MOTOR MONITORING
NO SENSORS, NO GUESSWORK

Our solution, PreditTransf, unlocks early fault detection using data you're already collecting - monitoring dozens of electrical parameters like excitation current, OLTC dynamics, and symmetrical components. It helps utilities and industrial operators detect issues like insulation failure, short-circuits, and OLTC degradation weeks or months in advance, turning maintenance into a strategic asset.

Zero sensors.
Zero downtime.
Total control.

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TRANSFORMING ASSET MANAGEMENT WITH PREDICTIVE, SOFTWARE-DRIVEN STRATEGIES

The day of easy reliability wins in the process plant are over. With routine issues resolved, teams now face complex, enterprise-wide challenges. As experienced workers retire, knowledge leaves with them. To adapt, organisations are turning to scalable digital tools that support less experienced teams and turn vast data into actionable insights. When built on open standards like OPC UA and MQTT, these systems enable maintenance, reliability, and operations teams to aggregate critical information from instrumentation, control valves, rotating equipment, and fixed production assets into a unified, globally accessible dashboard. In a secure, frictionless software environment, this data can then be used to automate corrective action when issues arise.

Plant asset management platforms enable digital transformation by allowing connectivity to a wide range of devices and host systems.

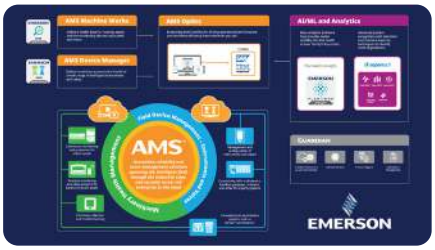
Today's top reliability teams are shifting away from scheduled rounds by using asset management software that gathers data from wired and wireless IIoT sensors. This replaces manual, route-based inspections with a software-driven strategy for monitoring plant health, device configuration, and more. With pervasively installed sensors tagged to an asset management system, teams can instantly view the status of every device in the plant. Maintenance becomes predictive, with automatic alerts for potential issues—no need to wait for operators to report problems.

Plant asset management platforms like Emerson's AMS Device Manager enable proactive field device maintenance from anywhere. Traditional maintenance reacts to failures, reducing availability and raising costs. Modern instruments and

Device and machine health from asset management systems may be centralised and delivered to relevant users in a clear and meaningful way—like for devices due for calibration to help drive maintenance work.

valves can self-diagnose, but their data often remains locked in the device.

By integrating AMS Device Manager with any control system, all connected devices can be monitored, diagnosed, and configured remotely—from the plant floor to a central hub or home office. The platform supports configuration and commissioning for faster setup, diagnostics to predict failures, calibration management to ensure accuracy, and documentation to automatically log events. With predictive diagnostics, calibration tracking, and complete documentation, AMS Device Manager reduces maintenance costs, improves asset availability, and minimises paperwork—transforming maintenance from reactive to predictive while giving teams the insight to act decisively.



Unmatched Asset Management Technologies: From intelligent sensors and edge devices to enterprise-wide insights, Emerson—together with AspenTech—delivers unmatched asset performance through a fully connected, AI-powered technology stack.

Extending predictive strategies to rotating and high-value turbomachinery assets, AMS Machine Works—a one-of-its-kind condition monitoring platform integrating rugged wireless sensors, portable analyzers, protection systems, and edge AI devices—can detect faults such as imbalance, misalignment, or bearing wear before they lead to failures. All this data is consolidated into a single interface, providing a real-time view of equipment conditions across the facility.

This unified "single pane of glass" view helps teams prioritise critical assets and respond quickly to abnormal conditions, while expanding monitoring coverage to remote or hazardous areas. Analytics applied at the edge allow maintenance teams to focus on the most pressing issues, reduce downtime, and maximise asset performance.

To learn more about how you can align maintenance, operations, IT, and data teams around one shared view of reliability, attend Emerson's workshop.

READ ONLINE:
Visit Emerson at A3

EMERSON

JOIN THIS SESSION

SMART MINING STARTS WITH TRUST – BRIDGING OT AND AI THROUGH REAL-WORLD COLLABORATION

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4 AT 11:15

Gorilla 1

WORKSHOP

BREAKING SILOS, BUILDING UPTIME – SECURING ENTERPRISE RELIABILITY IN A NEW ERA

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5 AT 09:35

Gorilla 4

R4AM: A SAP ADD-ON BUILT TO SUPPORT RELIABLE, COMPLIANT & COST-EFFICIENT MAINTENANCE

MAINTENANCE UNDER PRESSURE: WHY PRODUCTION COMPANIES NEED A SMARTER STRATEGY.

Across Europe, maintenance teams are facing a perfect storm. Skilled technicians are retiring, younger talent is scarce, and budgets are tightening. At the same time, assets are aging, regulatory pressure is rising, and downtime remains a costly threat. From managing compliance to coordinating across labs, production lines,and facilities—maintenance is more complex, and critical than ever.

Ready 4 Asset Management (R4AM) is SOA People's SAP-certified CMMS add-on that extends SAP Plant Maintenance into a fully digital, mobile, and compliant maintenance platform. Designed for the realities of today's production environments, it helps teams do more with less—without sacrificing traceability, uptime, or safety.

One solution. Many challenges solved.

Combat Knowledge Loss

With validated templates, standardised checklists, and digital workflows, R4A captures expert know-how—ensuring consistency even as senior staff retires.

Result: Smoother onboarding and reduced error rates.

Bridge Staffing Gaps

Mobile execution streamlines tasks, reduces paperwork, and frees technicians to focus on value-added work.

Result: Increased efficiency with the same head count.

Modernise Asset Oversight

Centralised planning and KPI-based prioritiation (like MTTR/MTBF) make maintenance decisions smarter and more data-driven.

Result: Reduced downtime, better resource allocation.

Master Spare Parts Inventory

Real-time visibility, usage tracking, and replenishment alerts help avoid both-shortages and costly overstocking.

Result: Optimised stocklevels and lower capitaltie-up.

Simplify Compliance, Digitally

All maintenance actions are logged, validated, and audit-ready—directlyinside SAP.

Result: Less audit stress, more operational continuity.

Want to do more with less? Start with better maintenance.

Meet us at the Asset Performance Conference this November on Booth A1

Visit **www.soapeople.com** or email **mathias.hertecant@soapeople.com** to book your live demo.

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30 YEARS OF SAP CHANGE — SAME MAINTENANCE HEADACHES? A PRAGMATIC PLAYBOOK WITH READY FOR ASSET MANAGEMENT (R4AM)

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5 AT 10:10

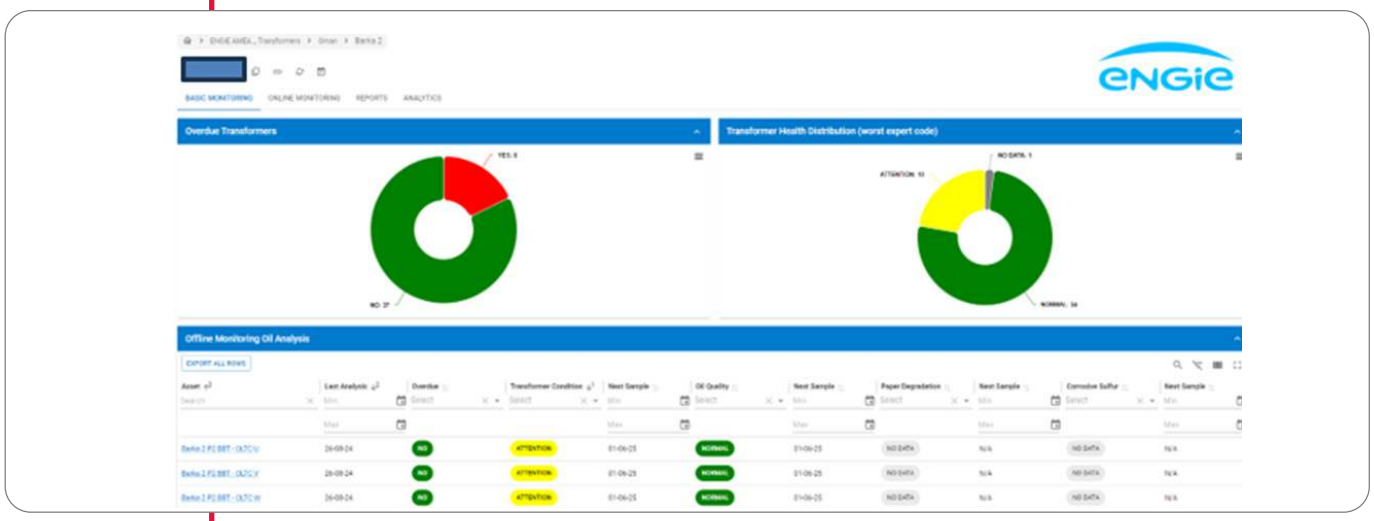
Gorilla 1

WORKSHOP

HANDS ON WITH READY4 ASSET MANAGEMENT: TURNING INSPECTIONS (CHECKLIST) INTO STRATEGIC INSIGHTS

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4 AT 11:15

Gorilla 4



SEEING THE WHOLE GRID: RETHINKING TRANSFORMER MONITORING IN A COMPLEX WORLD

Transformer failures are costly, yet fleet-wide health visibility remains a major challenge. We talked to Hans Rigole, Expert Condition Monitoring of transformers at ENGIE Laborelec. His session at Asset Performance 2025 reveals how OneBoard 2.0 brings clarity, foresight and structure to transformer asset management.

The Visibility Gap in Transformer Asset Management

In energy-intensive industries and grid networks, power transformers are critical components. Their condition directly impacts uptime, operational safety and long-term infrastructure planning. Yet as fleets grow and assets age, maintaining a clear overview of transformer health remains a challenge.

Hans Rigole, expert in transformer diagnostics at ENGIE Laborelec, observes this across many organisations. "We work with asset owners managing ten to over a thousand transformers," he explains. "In many cases, they rely on fragmented sources, PDFs, spreadsheets, isolated reports. That makes fleet-wide insights difficult to obtain."

Monitoring typically depends on periodic oil sampling, followed by lab-based reporting. While effective for individual units, this process doesn't scale easily. Spotting trends, comparing results or prioritising interventions across dozens — or hundreds — of assets becomes time-intensive and reactive. "Some teams set aside full days each year just to review reports," Hans says. The result can be missed degradation signals and reduced ability to act ahead of failure—especially in ageing assets.

New Pressures on Ageing Assets

This lack of visibility is increasingly problematic under current conditions. Procurement timelines for new transformers now stretch to two or three years, and prices have risen sharply. Meanwhile, the energy transition is placing new demands on ageing infrastructure. "Many existing transformers will be running hotter and longer than they were designed for," Hans explains. "That accelerates aging, especially of the insulation system, and increases the risk of unplanned failure."

Another barrier to effective decision-making is internal fragmentation. In larger organisations, health data is often scattered between maintenance, engineering, and operations teams—or even between regional entities. "In some cases, no one can tell how a transformer's condition has changed over time," Hans explains. "Without trends, you can't act proactively."

Improving Oversight with Digital Tools

To address this, ENGIE Laborelec developed a digital platform that consolidates transformer condition data into one accessible system. The platform, used in combination with standard oil analyses, enables teams to assess both individual asset status and overall fleet condition.

> ***THE IDEA IS TO MAKE ASSET HEALTH PART OF EVERYDAY AWARENESS, NOT JUST AN ANNUAL REVIEW.***
>
> **– HANS RIGOLE**
> *Condition Monitoring of transformers at ENGIE Laborelec.*

"Instead of static reports, users can explore health data in an interactive dashboard called OneBoard," Hans says."You can view individual asset health or zoom out to assess the status of your entire fleet." The system flags anomalies, supports trend analysis, and provides intuitive visual indicators that make it clear where attention is needed.

The tool can be accessed via browser across teams and sites. "We wanted to give asset managers and engineers a shared, structured view," Hans adds. "It's structured, searchable, and always up to date. That makes it much easier to coordinate actions and maintain oversight, and that's key when decisions are distributed across teams or locations."

Advanced Monitoring: Predicting Risk and Lifespan

Building on this foundation, ENGIE Laborelec added advanced analytical capabilities to the OneBoard platform. These include a Residual Life Assessment (RLA) model and a Transformer Risk Matrix—both designed to support longer-term planning.

The RLA provides an estimate of remaining service life, based primarily on insulation paper degradation and transformer age. "Once the paper reaches a critical threshold, the unit cannot be restored," Hans explains. "So it's essential to anticipate when replacement might be needed. We've developed a logarithmic model that uses lab data and historical records to predict remaining lifespan in years."

This functionality is especially valuable now, with long replacement lead times and high capital costs. By identifying units with less than 5 or 10 years of expected life, asset managers can prepare replacements in time, avoiding catastrophic failure or prolonged outages.

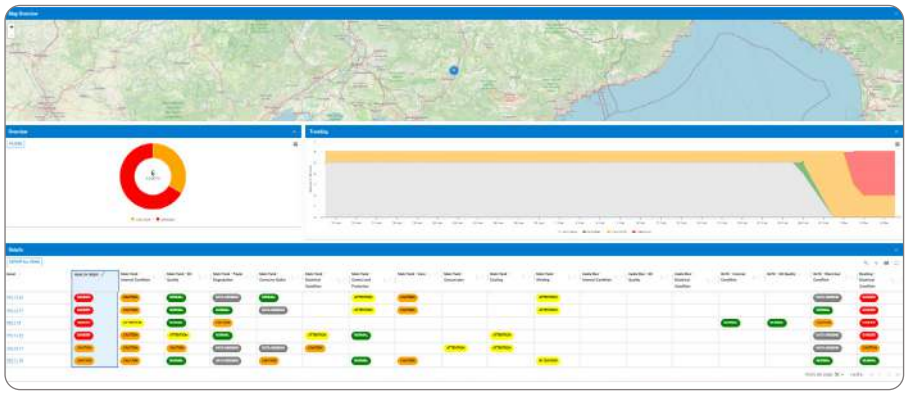
In parallel, the Risk Matrix evaluates the likelihood of failure using thirteen diagnostic parameters, including dissolved gas levels (DGA), furan content, water concentration, dielectric breakdown voltage, and historical fault records. The system scores each asset and presents a fleet-wide risk map, enabling risk-based maintenance and investment planning.

"Some organisations apply this only to a subset of critical assets," Hans says. "For example, a big industrial client monitors over 100 transformers in Gent. They selected 10 to 15 units for enhanced follow-up using these tools."

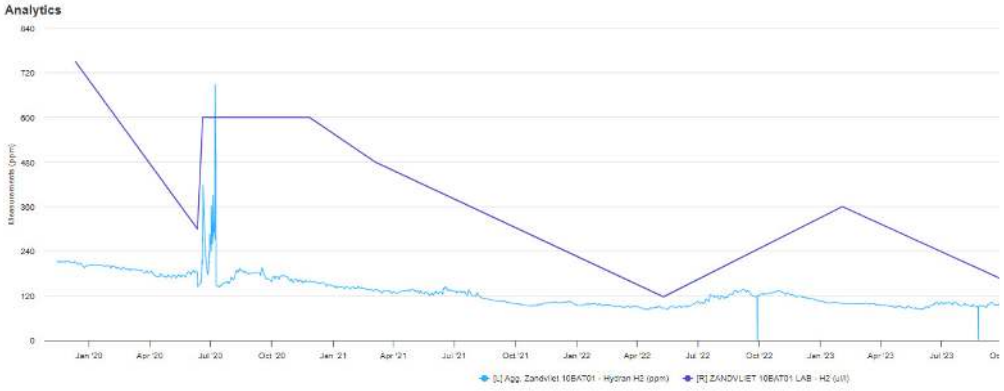
Aligning People, Sites and Systems

For many asset owners, the bigger challenge isn't the technical data, it's aligning people and processes. Hans recounts a recent experience with a Belgian asset owner whose sites in Flanders and Wallonia had entirely separate monitoring practices. "Reports were generated, printed, and stored locally. No one was tracking whether conditions were improving or worsening," he says. "Reports were stored locally or lost between teams," he says. "If an anomaly appeared, there was no trend to compare it to. That makes decision-making harder."

The use of a shared monitoring platform such as OneBoard 2.0 helps bridge



Fleet & Transformer overview, Report storage and Analytics function, but also including Residual Life Assessment (RLA) and Health Index (HI) based on available historical OCM analyses and electrical CM analyses.



As to check the adequate functioning of the installed online monitoring devices, OneBoard allows easy detection of drift and/or unacceptable accuracy or repeatability of the sensors.

these gaps. Authorised users from various functions in maintenance, asset management, engineering can access the same data set. Mobile access is also supported, enabling field teams to stay informed. "The idea is to make asset health part of everyday awareness, not just an annual review," says Hans.

For asset owners with online monitoring systems already installed on transformers - such as real-time DGA sensors - OneBoard can also integrate live data streams. This supports continuous supervision, automated alarms, and faster incident response. "It only works if you actually follow up on the alerts," Hans adds with a smile, "but the platform is fully ready to support that workflow."

Live Demonstration at Asset Performance 2025

At the upcoming Asset Performance conference, ENGIE Laborelec will present a live demo of the platform, with special attention to the Residual Life and Risk Matrix functionalities. The session will also cover practical cases of how transformer monitoring is evolving—from periodic inspection toward data-driven asset management.

Hans sees it as an opportunity to exchange ideas. "We're not just showcasing a tool," he says. "We want to explore how organisations can make better use of the data they already have—and structure it in a way that supports strategic planning."

Hans puts it plainly: "If you're an asset manager responsible for a medium to large transformer fleet, this session is for you. OneBoard 2.0 is here to make your life easier." Whether you're facing fragmented data, ageing assets, or a growing sense of uncertainty around transformer condition, this presentation offers a compelling solution. OneBoard 2.0 brings clarity, efficiency, and foresight to transformer fleet management. Exactly what technical leaders need to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

JOIN THIS SESSION

HOW TO KEEP TRACK OF TRANSFORMER FLEET HEALTH

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5
AT 14:35

Gorilla 3

Read full article online:

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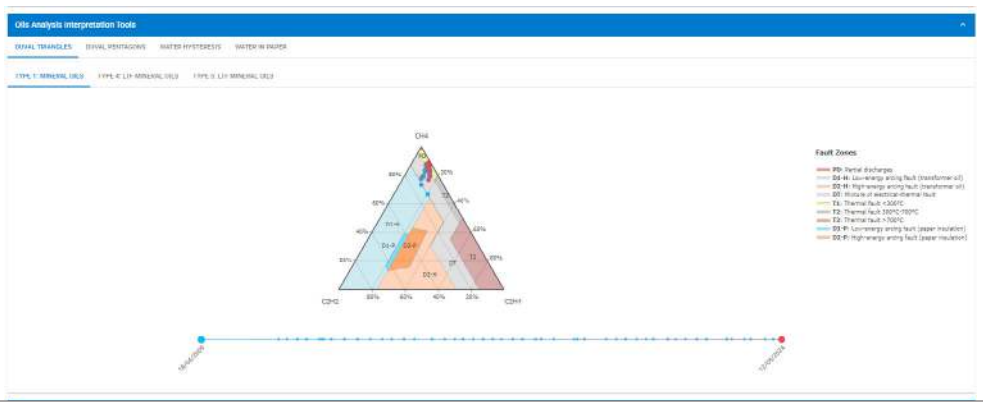
RESEARCH & INNOVATION



As to allow basic interpretation of DGA and fault identification/evolution, Duval triangle simulations are visualised and based on the available historical offline oil analysis data.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ASSET PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT: UNLOCKING MORE VALUE FROM YOUR ASSETS

In today's challenging economic climate, the chemical industry is under pressure. Rising energy and raw material costs, stricter regulations, and the urgency of sustainability demand smarter ways of working.

Reliable and cost-efficient assets are crucial. Unplanned downtime not only leads to millions in losses but also threatens competitiveness. Asset Performance Management (APM) enables companies to better manage risks, enhance performance, and extend asset lifetimes.

As Ebert HERA, part of the Ebert HERA Group, we combine expertise with data-driven insights. Through predictive analytics, advanced inspection technologies, and decades of experience in the chemical industry, we deliver tangible results:

- ☑ Lower maintenance costs without compromising safety
- ☑ Prevention of unplanned downtime through predictive maintenance
- ☑ Extended asset life cycles
- ☑ Progress toward sustainability goals through efficient asset use

Building resilience and profitability together

At the Asset Performance Management Conference, we will share our proven insights and practical approaches that help clients create a resilient, safe, and profitable future.

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Visit Ebert HERA at B5

EBERT HERA
we maintain the future. together.

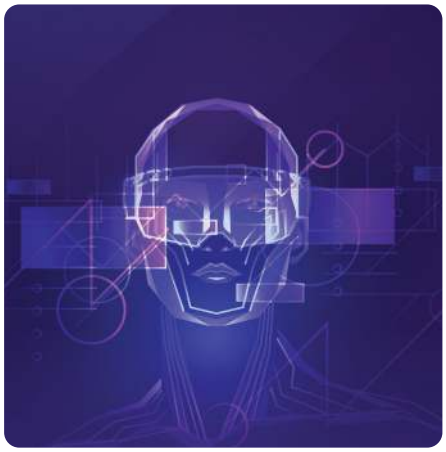
MORE THAN MAINTENANCE: EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH SMARTER SYSTEMS

As industrial operations grow in complexity, so do their asset management challenges. No longer just focused on keeping assets running, organisations need to ensure that their assets are running optimally, safely, and efficiently. Addressing these requirements calls for a reliability-first mindset supported by a combination of tried-and-tested methodologies and transformative technologies. Reliability-Centered Maintenance (RCM) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) offer the perfect combination, bridging the gap between operational discipline and future-forward innovation.

RCM provides a holistic approach to defining maintenance requirements based on asset criticality, failure modes, and risk assessment. Implementing RCM can sometimes be resource-intensive because of a reliance on manual root cause analysis and expert knowledge. Fortunately, modern Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) platforms have now evolved to operationalise RCM at scale. AI-driven capabilities such as automated failure analysis and dynamic maintenance planning help teams to do the right thing, at the right time.

This is no longer an idyllic future. EAM platforms now embed intelligent agents into daily operations. These digital coworkers support maintenance planners, warehouse coordinators, and reliability engineers. By proactively handling asset structuring, failure assessment, and repair planning, these agents free up human expertise for higher-value tasks. Agents learn from every date point they process, and over time, transform the EAM system from a passive database into an active, mission-critical control center.

The convergence of RCM and AI will not replace people, but instead empower them. It fosters resilient operations where confident, data-driven decisions come faster, data is contextualised, and asset strategies adapt continuously. The



future of asset management is moving toward more than maintenance: a dynamic asset strategy that evolves in real time to meet tomorrow's challenges head-on.

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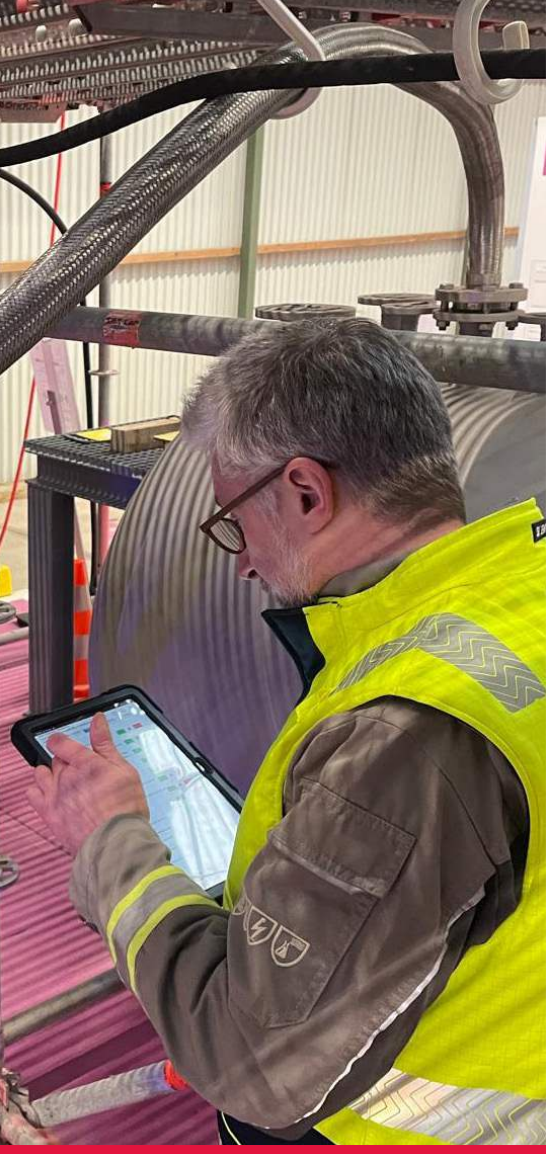


SAFETY STARTS IN SIMULATION: HOW EVONIK AND SKILLSUPP BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN TRAINING AND REAL-LIFE PERFORMANCE

When a patient's life is on the line, every second and every action counts. The same principle applies in the chemical industry, where a small deviation from protocol can have life-threatening consequences. This parallel forms the foundation of an unexpected yet powerful collaboration between healthcare education and heavy industry. During this year's Asset Performance Conference, Werner Van Acker (Technical Governance Manager at Evonik), Geert Van de Weyer, and dr. Deborah Hilderson (researchers at Karel de Grote University College) will present their joint project: SkillsUpp, a simulation-based training and evaluation method that is reshaping safety culture at the chemical giant.

From Hospital Wards to Chemical Plants

Geert Van de Weyer and Deborah Hilderson have their roots in nursing education, where simulation training and structured skills evaluation have long been established practice. In their work, they noticed discrepancies in how students were evaluated based on subjective interpretation of errors. By developing a matrix-based digital assessment tool, they eliminated evaluator bias. This tool, initially designed for nursing education, caught the attention of the industrial world.

Evonik, operating in the port of Antwerp, became a pilot partner. "We wondered: could the same approach used to evaluate a nursing student inserting an IV line be applied to technicians conducting high-risk procedures like flange assembly in our facilities?" says Van Acker. The answer turned out to be a resounding yes.

Piloting Simulation in the Safety Street

Together, the team launched a pilot project at Evonik's Safety Street—a replica of a plant environment used for training without any real hazards. The simulation scenario focused on replacing a valve and included key procedural steps such as work order verification, LMRA, red/green labeling, flange mounting, and reporting.

Contractors were observed by the safety coordinators of Evonik, performing tasks, and their actions were scored via the SkillsUpp app based on a pre-defined matrix. The results were surprising: discrepancies emerged between perceived

PEER FEEDBACK AS A LEARNING ACCELERATOR

An unexpected benefit of the SkillsUpp implementation at Evonik was the growing use of peer feedback. Safety coordinators and trainees began observing each other's performances, offering suggestions and insights based on shared experience. "It's still early days," Van Acker notes, "but we see that peer evaluations help embed standards and build mutual accountability." The method encourages teams to collectively raise their level of execution by turning evaluation into a shared responsibility rather than a top-down directive.

Dr. Hilderson adds: "When feedback comes from a peer rather than a supervisor, it's often perceived as more collaborative. That dynamic supports a culture of continuous improvement."

– WERNER VAN ACKER
Technical Governance Manager at Evonik
–GEERT VAN DE WEYER & dr. DEBORAH HILDERSON
Researchers at Karel de Grote University College

performance and actual results. "One evaluator thought a contractor deserved a solid score, around 14 out of 20," Van Acker recalls. "But when we reviewed the detailed scoring in the SkillsUpp dashboard, it became clear that several critical mistakes had been overlooked. The system flagged these correctly, showing us how much nuance can be lost in manual evaluation."

Objective, Actionable Feedback

The tool doesn't just deliver a score. It provides a detailed breakdown of which actions were correct, which were faulty, and their weight in the overall evaluation. "This gives us something we never had before: real-time, objective feedback," explains Van Acker. "Not only at the individual level, but also across teams and departments. We can see patterns, such as language barriers impacting instruction comprehension, and adjust our training focus accordingly."

Geert Van de Weyer elaborates: "This approach allows us to move from gut feeling to measurable indicators. Instead of arguing over how severe a mistake is, we have a framework that makes the conversation objective, constructive and forward-looking."

Boosting Safety Culture and Performance

For Evonik, this method represents more than just a better training tool. It fuels a shift toward a more open feedback culture. Simulations allow mistakes to be made and corrected in a controlled environment. "You can challenge unsafe habits without blame," says Hilderson. "It's not about detecting errors; it's about enabling improvement."

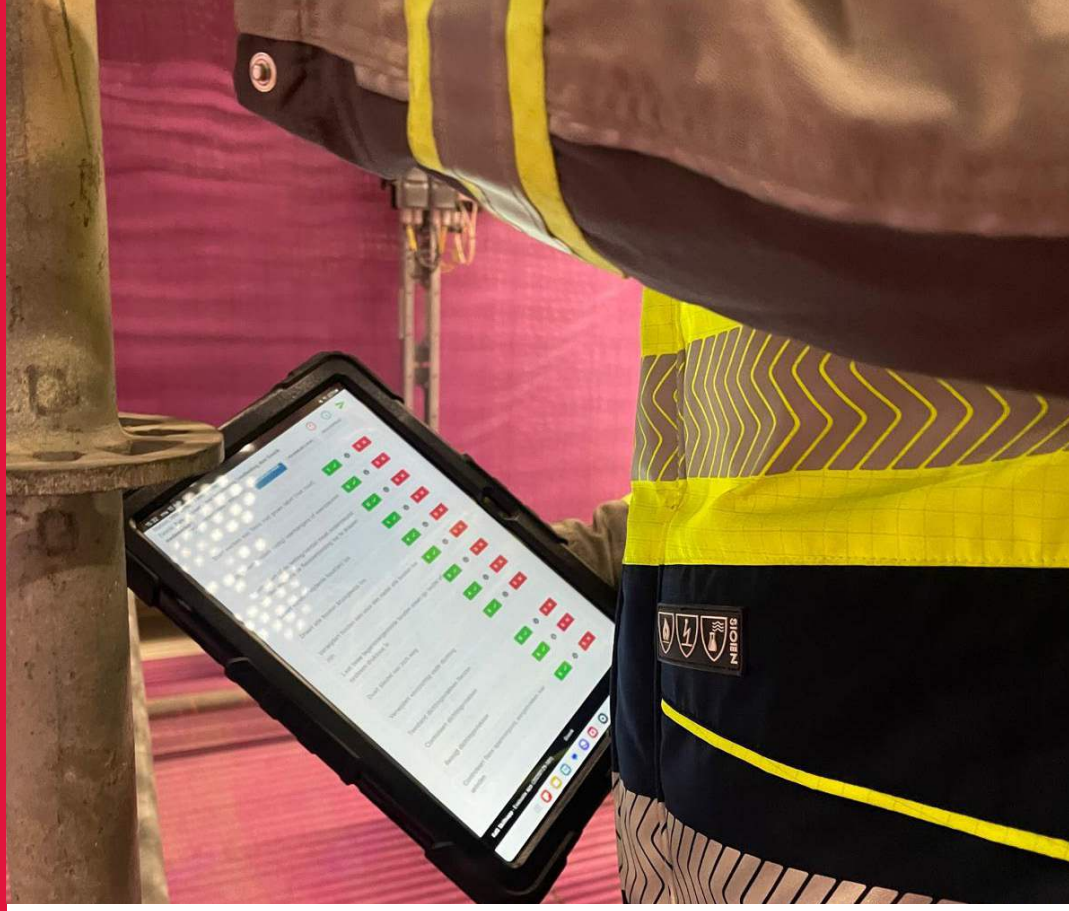
"That's the biggest shift we've seen," adds Van de Weyer. "We're not just training for compliance anymore, we're building competence and confidence." Dr. Hilderson agrees: "In many ways, simulation humanises the learning process. It lets people make mistakes without fear, and learn faster because of it. That's a cultural leap we're proud to support."

WHEN LANGUAGE BECOMES A SAFETY RISK

One insight that surprised the team was the impact of language comprehension on safety-critical procedures. "Many contractors indicated they understood Dutch, English, or German," Van Acker explains, "but during simulation, it became clear that important procedural nuances were often lost." The SkillsUpp tool's data visualisation helped make these issues visible. This has since prompted a reassessment of how instructions are communicated and validated. "It's not about language skills," says Hilderson, "it's about ensuring nothing vital gets lost in translation when safety is at stake."

Another notable observation during the pilot was how rarely additional safety instructions were fully read and understood—despite being essential. This insight led to a refinement of both the simulation content and how critical instructions are delivered.

With thanks to the authors: Geert Van de Weyer, dr. Deborah Hilderson and Werner Van Acker



The impact is already visible. "Colleagues are initiating ideas themselves," says Van de Weyer. "They're asking: how can we use this method in real-life operations? That's when you know you're building something sustainable."

Scaling Up and Looking Ahead

Encouraged by the results, SkillsUpp is now seeking to scale further and develop modular building blocks so companies can configure their own evaluation matrices and feedback systems.
SkillsUpp supports companies in transitioning from paper-based assessments to traceable, digital evaluations. "It enables faster corrective action when deviations are found, supports transparent audits, and helps identify coaching needs at the individual level," says Hilderson.

Evonik is exploring its use in critical pre-job simulations for tasks such as rigging and EMR procedures. Future simulations could even be integrated into active plants to assess real-life performance.

"Ultimately, we want a system where every contractor has to meet a transparent baseline score to access high-risk zones," says Van Acker. "This isn't about policing—it's about making sure everyone is truly ready."

Join the Session at Asset Performance 2025

At the conference, Van Acker, Van de Weyer, and Hilderson will present real cases, dashboard visuals, and concrete results. Their message is clear: technical skills alone are not enough. Real safety comes from integrating knowledge, execution, and effective communication.

"We want maintenance managers, reliability engineers, and digitalisation leads to realise that the way we evaluate readiness can be transformed," Van Acker concludes. "Simulation is not a rehearsal. It's where performance begins."

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UNLOCKING PREDICTIVE POWER: HOW BAYESIAN NETWORKS ENHANCE MAINTENANCE DECISION-MAKING

Interview with Erik Hostens, Senior Researcher at Flanders Make

At the Asset Performance Conference, Erik Hostens, researcher at Flanders Make, will demonstrate how Bayesian networks can significantly reshape maintenance strategies in asset-intensive industries. In this article, Hostens walks us through the science and real-world value of applying probabilistic models to predict Remaining Useful Life (RUL), optimise maintenance timing, and manage associated risks and costs.

Flanders Make is a strategic research centre that bridges academic research and industrial application, similar in spirit to institutes like Fraunhofer or TNO. Hostens, a senior researcher at the organisation, is involved in both hands-on research and the coordination of industrial projects. "Our mission is to enhance the competitiveness of Flemish companies through innovation," he explains. "We work closely with universities and industrial partners, translating scientific advancements into practical tools for companies."

Understanding Remaining Useful Life

At the core of Erik's work lies a deceptively straightforward question: when will a component fail? But as Hostens emphasises, predicting asset failure is far from trivial. "We talk about Remaining Useful Life, or RUL, which is the time left before a component becomes non-functional or underperforms. It's not just about knowing how long something will last, it's about understanding how confident you are in that estimate."

Traditional maintenance strategies often rely on statistical averages provided by manufacturers—such as L10 or L50 lifetimes under ideal conditions. But field data tell a more complex story. "In practice, components are usually replaced before failure. That means the real moment of failure is often missing from the data. We call this censored data," says Hostens. "But even if you don't see the failure itself, the degradation history leading up to it is extremely valuable."

Bayesian Networks: A Holistic Approach

That's where Bayesian networks come in. "A Bayesian network is a graphical model that shows probabilistic relationships between different variables," he explains. "You start with something as intuitive as a whiteboard drawing—linking load, temperature, vibration, and so on—and you quantify the relationships between these variables. Eventually, this model allows you to

> ***IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT KNOWING HOW LONG SOMETHING WILL LAST—IT'S ABOUT UNDERSTANDING HOW CONFIDENT YOU ARE IN THAT ESTIMATE.***

– ERIK HOSTENS
Senior Researcher at Flanders Make

calculate the probability that something will fail within a certain time frame, under specific conditions."

Unlike traditional approaches that treat statistics, condition monitoring, and degradation models separately, Bayesian networks combine all this information. "We're not replacing existing models like Weibull distributions or machine learning algorithms," he clarifies. "We're integrating them. For example, neural networks can be used to identify features in vibration data, and those features feed into the Bayesian model."

A Real-World Case: Solenoid-Operated Valves

Hostens will illustrate this with a case study on solenoid-operated valves. These components were tested in the lab, some up to a few million cycles, capturing operational and failure data. The Bayesian model developed from this dataset was able to predict RUL based on real-time measurements. "And then we layered a cost model on top of it," he adds. "What's the cost if you replace the component too early? What's the cost if it fails unexpectedly? What's the cost of a service visit? These are all stochastic variables—they have their own probabilities."

Supporting Real-World Maintenance Decisions

What makes this approach especially relevant for technical maintenance managers is its applicability to complex,

real-world decisions. "Imagine you manage a fleet of machines. You have limited resources and need to schedule maintenance visits efficiently. You want to avoid downtime but also avoid unnecessary replacements. Our model supports that decision-making process in an objective and data-driven way."

The use of Bayesian networks also supports opportunity maintenance—planning multiple interventions in a single visit to reduce overall costs. "It quickly becomes very complex," says Hostens. "If you're replacing one component, should you also replace another that might fail soon? How do you account for lead times and logistics? The model calculates all of that based on the current state of the equipment and the cost scenarios."

While Bayesian networks may sound technically daunting, Hostens emphasizes their accessibility. "They allow engineers who aren't data scientists to still leverage complex statistical insights. And that aligns with our philosophy at Flanders Make: knowledge transfer. We don't sell software—we help companies build the capabilities to do this themselves."

What to Expect from the Conference Session

What can attendees expect to learn from his session at the Asset Performance Conference? "First, they'll understand how to use all available information—sensor data, statistics, operational conditions, and cost models—to support maintenance decisions. Second, they'll see how Bayesian networks offer a practical and transparent way to combine this information. And third, they'll leave with a realistic idea of how to start applying this approach in their own organisation."

Hostens' session is especially relevant for reliability engineers, maintenance managers, and asset strategists looking to move beyond fixed schedules and reactive maintenance. As industries continue to digitise and optimise, the ability to predict and plan with greater accuracy is not just a technical advantage—it's a competitive necessity.

Join Erik Hostens at the Asset Performance Conference to explore how probabilistic modeling can bring clarity to complex maintenance challenges, and help your organisation make smarter, more cost-effective decisions.

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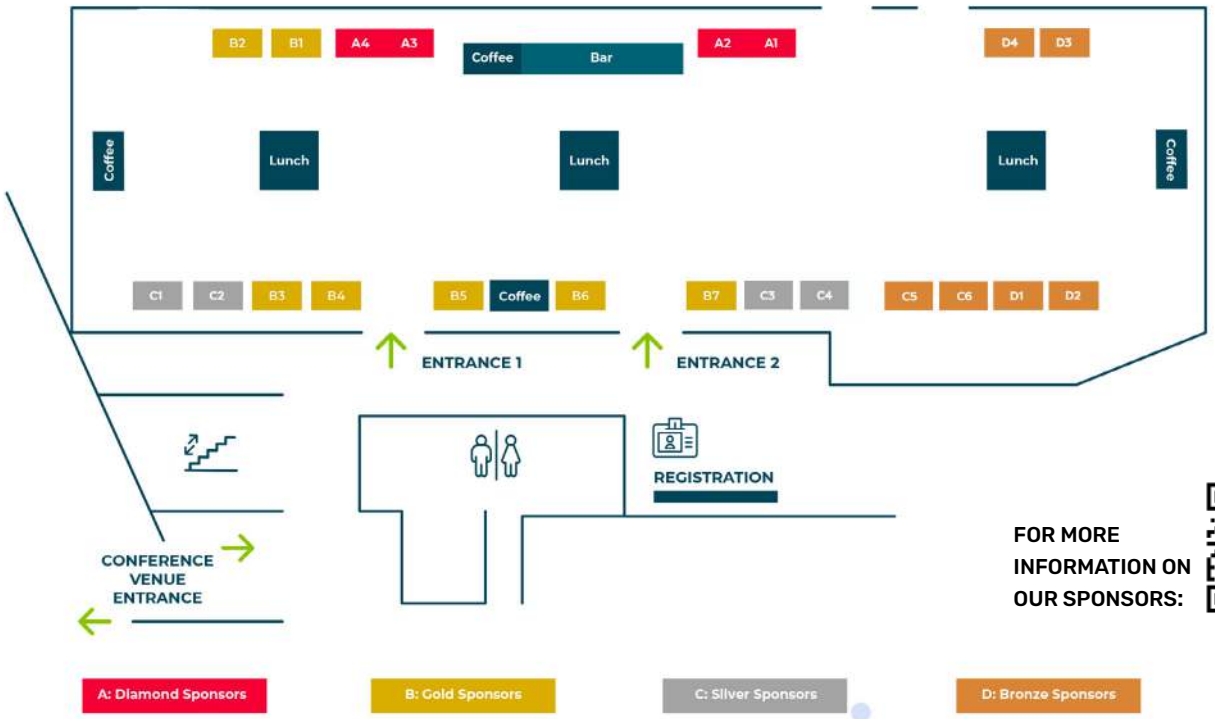

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