

THE IMPORTANCE OF INTRODUCING COMPUTERISED MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (CMMS) INTO MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SYLLABUS

Mr. Bimal Rajapakse,
Operations Executive, SLIMLINE (PVT) Ltd. Pannala

The students reading for a degree in mechanical engineering will one day end up as a mechanical engineers, engineering managers etc. in factories and will be involved in the maintenance of the machinery. It is essential that these engineers have a proper maintenance management system in place in order to make their work effective.

A system whereby the mechanical engineers can take decisions and ensure that all the machinery is well maintained at the most appropriate time is essential. This can be achieved through a computerized maintenance management system.

Mechanical engineers going into the industry after graduation should be well versed with these systems.

In the western world, Maintenance Management and CMMS as part of it is introduced to all the mechanical engineers at the undergraduate level. They are provided exposure to a CMMS with hands-on experience, thus enabling them to take the message to the industry.

A Computerized Maintenance Management Systems (CMMS) can do the following.

1. Work Order Scheduling – Based on the information given to the system at the time of implementation, preventive maintenance schedules will be automatically generated.
2. Keep records of all the past maintenance activities.
3. Give up to date information about the inventory items (spare parts needed for repairs)

Advantages of using a CMMS

1. Will enable the management to take decisions by generating reports, based on past Maintenance records.
2. Will be helpful in tracking down a likely and an unexpected failure.
3. Will inform the user about a possible shortage of important inventory items .
4. Will enable a user to know where exactly the machinery and inventory parts are located.

Some of the leading CMMS in the world market are IMPACTxp, Datastream, Maximo, SAP PM, Mainpac etc.

Thwaites Brewery in UK is a Company that has been greatly benefited by a CMMS. They use IMPACTxp.

“ Our task is to make the co successful, not to waste money. We Take to every thing we purchase, and that sentiment underlies our choice for IMPACTxp- Computerized Maintenance Management System” says the Andrew Keenan, assistant engineer Thwart Brewery.

He Continues “ Our task is to operate an efficient maintenance system so that the brewery functions with optimum efficiency “

Full text of the **Case study** on **Thwart Brewery** can be found in the following web site.

[http:// www.impactxp.com/graphic/thwaites.html](http://www.impactxp.com/graphic/thwaites.html)

It is my suggestion that University of Moratuwa should introduce some CMMS to the students in the mechanical engineering faculty, thus enabling them to take the message to the industry.

Some knowledge on database design & programming too will be useful for mechanical engineers when they work with CMMS.

Bimal Rajapakse graduated from University of Moratuwa in 1997 with BSc in Mech Engineering. Later he obtained his M.Sc. in Engineering Management from Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane Australia (QUT) . He is presently Operations Executive, SLIMLINE (PVT) Ltd. Pannala.