



United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) Equipment Management Tracking System Provides Vital Day-to-Day Operating Information

Name: United States Enrichment Corporation

Internet:
www.usec.com/default.htm

Products/Services:
Uranium Enrichment Fuel

Location:
Paducah/McCracken County

Leadership:
William H. Timbers,
USEC President and CEO
Lisa Gordon-Hagerty,
Executive Vice President & COO
Russ Starkey,
General Manager, Paducah Plant

Employees:
1,400 Within Kentucky

Founded: 1952, Paducah Plant

Reach: International

Innovative Insight:
"Understand exactly what your business needs are, and find the right technology to meet them. Technology is evolving so fast that often a new solution was not possible a few months ago."

Way Internet Has Made You More Competitive: *"The Internet has helped employees accept and adapt to computerized innovation. By banking online, or using e-mail to get family photos, it makes sense to use the same technology at work."*

Ways to Continue to Attract Best Workers: *"Remove obstacles that make employees less productive. Technology is one of the best tools to do that"*

Paducah, Ky. — A single pellet of nuclear fuel about the size of a pencil eraser can produce as much electricity as a ton of coal. This factor combined with rapidly increasing global demand for electricity will make nuclear power an increasingly important source of energy in coming years. USEC Inc. (NYSE: USU), a global energy company, is the world's leading supplier of enriched uranium fuel for commercial nuclear power plants. Located in McCracken County, USEC's Paducah plant is a large industrial complex with approximately 100,000 individual equipment components housed inside some 120 acres of process buildings.

By developing a state-of-the-art system that provides real-time information about plant equipment and components at its Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (iPlant), USEC's operators, maintenance mechanics and engineers all have real-time access to valuable, comprehensive information about the equipment they work with every day. The result has been measurable improvements in work control, planning and maintenance functions, all contributing to overall efficiency of plant operations.

iPlant was born in response to a need to link the massive pools of complex data about equipment components that were being maintained in several different software programs, hand-written log books and manually generated reports.

Prior to the iPlant system, you might find different aspects of the history of a single piece of equipment in the Computerized Maintenance Management System, component history cards, out-of-service logs, system health reports and/or the component reliability reports. Equipment availability, key to effective management of plant resources, was manually tracked in each of the plant's large process buildings. Real-time information on overall plant component availability was generally unavailable.

Now iPlant links key software programs containing equipment-related information and has morphed manual entry logs and reports into an electronic format. The system has three primary parts, referred to as the equipment status, issue and event modules. Day-to-day operating information is available at both the detailed and summary level. Plant equipment is displayed in a hierarchical relationship, such that both upstream and downstream devices are visible. Equipment status is color-coded and can be viewed anywhere from the specific-component level to an overall-plant-status level. The status of equipment reliability and availability versus the plant's established targets is automatically displayed.

Since the system was designed from an equipment-centric view (created to meet the needs of our particular equipment and components), additional enhancements are easily added as long as the requests can be tied back to an existing structure, system or component. Future iPlant enhancements under development include ability to track industrial safety issues and an electronic version of daily operator rounds using tablet PCs.

And while USEC recently announced its intent to locate its new state-of-the-art American Centrifuge uranium enrichment plant in Piketon, Ohio, the enrichment plant in Paducah will continue to supply uranium to the U.S. government for the remainder of the decade with the expectation that the facility will eventually be converted into a regional industrial park.

About KY 120:

In the fast-paced world of technology-driven business, it should be recognized that best practices can be studied and emulated. As a part of the [connectkentucky](#) initiative, CITE is profiling business initiatives in each of Kentucky's 120 counties to identify lessons learned on the path toward successful and sustainable innovation.