Intelligence in Manufacturing

Energy Saving now for long-term gains.

The current crisis in the cost of energy is likely to last for some time to come and so everyone's attention is on how to become more efficient and reduce energy usage. The current crisis is caused by the rising global price of gas which has imprecations for heating our homes and places of work along with electricity production which is reliant in part on gas as a fuel. Of course, as more wind and solar generation is added to the mix, the nation grid will over time be less reliant on global gas prices. Energy savings, both at home and in industry, is of course a long-term goal that will contribute significantly to fixing the climate crisis.

Understanding where that energy is used is the first piece of the puzzle, and for anyone who has a smart meter at home or drives an electric car they will know that having more data helps identify where the energy is used and the cost at different times of the day. This is equally true in manufacturing, but for many plants across the country there is very little data available to help address energy efficiency. Without the data, it is impossible to create an accurate energy map of the plant and identify savings.

This is where Mitsubishi Electric can really play a part in helping to monitor and measure asset performance and identify where savings can be made. By deploying technology to capture the energy usage data, process and analyse it, a detailed picture can be built up of where and when the energy is used. This can lead to several actions to save energy, from upgrading old drives to more energy efficient models, or re-scheduling processes to optimise the operations of a process or plant.

By utilising cloud-based data modelling, it is possible to provides real time energy analysis across multiple assets and empower facility managers on the ground to act and save costs now and into the future. An important part of energy efficiency is that once the initial capital outlay has been covered, the ongoing saves are just that.

Duncan Nicol