

Asian Paints Transforms Data into Business Impact with Sight Machine

Asian Paints is renowned as India's largest paint and coatings company, a top 10 global supplier, and one of the world's 10 most innovative companies as cited by Forbes in 2017. Asian Paints recently launched an initiative to harness its production data to drive business value. The twin goals: boosting plant productivity and utilizing resources more efficiently, in line with the company's core mission of sustainability.

Sight Machine Gets the Green Light

Asian Paints' challenge was to collect and analyze a wealth of data from a dozen disparate sources representing hundreds of production machines. After assessing options available in the marketplace, the company chose Sight Machine for its unique capability to scalably model the complex interdependencies among machines, processes, and materials to create a digital twin of production. Selected as the production data platform for all Asian Paints facilities in India, Sight Machine is already delivering dramatic results from its initial deployment at a plant near Chennai.

Asian Paints hit the ground running, working rapidly with the Sight Machine team to acquire, clean, contextualize, and then model the data from every source, sensor, and aspect of production. **The culmination was a plant digital twin that exposed and quantified contentions and bottlenecks wherever they existed** — providing Asian Paints' engineers with a host of actionable insights.

Challenges

- Reduce batch cycle time
- Obtain data insights to drive multiple production improvements
- Make operations even more environmentally sustainable

Solution

- Deployed Sight Machine Manufacturing Data Platform
- Automated data acquisition and contextualization from disparate sources and hundreds of machines
- Modeled blended data to create a digital twin of the entire production process

Results

- 7% reduction in cycle time within 60 days of Sight Machine deployment
- 100+ more ways to improve productivity identified, 8 completed within 60 days
- Democratized data with dashboards geared to different levels and roles
- Greater sustainability through more efficient usage of raw materials and electricity
- Rapid, agile production troubleshooting

Ground-Breaking Value in Record Time

“When we put in the Sight Machine digital twin, we could immediately find opportunities for optimizing cycle time,” said Harish Lade, VP Supply Chain. That’s exactly what the company did, shaving 7% off cycle time on the targeted production line within 60 days of Sight Machine deployment.

Asian Paints also used the Sight Machine platform to identify and detail more than 100 other opportunities to increase plant productivity, including optimizing batch recipes, changing preventive maintenance schedules, and understanding alarms.

Data-Driven Discoveries: A Trove of Unknown “Unknowns”

Asian Paints’ team had intuitions and gut feelings as to several production factors that could be optimized. However, they had no definitive answers, nor the ability to quantify their hunches. The Sight Machine platform supplied both. Equally important, by following the data and exploring its complex interrelationships — in effect, letting the data take the lead — the team discovered problems and opportunities they hadn’t previously been aware of. In the words of Deepak Bhosale, General Manager of Information Technology, “These are things which we had never seen before.”

Democratizing Data

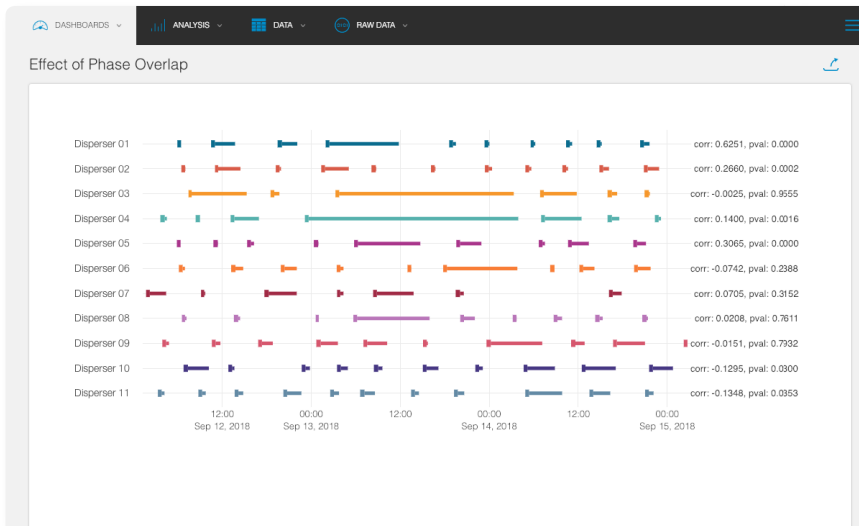
Sight Machine has also made Asian Paints’ production data visible across the enterprise. With the platform’s customizable dashboards, everyone from process engineers to plant managers to preventive maintenance supervisors can now easily access a data view tailored to their specific needs.

Phase 2: Spreading the Success

Asian Paints is now taking the next step: applying the initial use case to larger plants that turn out a more varied mix of products. The company also plans to improve sustainability by harnessing Sight Machine insights to minimize production waste. And many more use cases are in the works.

According to Harish Lade, “The biggest takeaway has been the possibility of using data to behave and work differently. With the Sight Machine platform as the foundation to unleash that, the sky is the limit.”

Sight Machine created a digital twin of the entire production process, enabling the plant team to identify differences in machine processing time.



7%

Reduction in
Cycle-Time

108

Data-Driven Productivity
Improvements Identified

“Sight Machine gives us unique insights into what is happening in production across our factories, which will enable us to be a faster and more agile organization.”

Harish Lade

VP Supply Chain, Asian Paints



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