

Aspentech Award

for innovative business practice

Winner
sparesFinder

Second
Advantica Technologies

Third
Kvaerner E&C
BNFL Engineering

First place
sparesFinder's web-based inventory management system lets companies optimise the quantities of engineering spare parts they hold, rationalise where they hold them and then retrieve them quickly in an emergency. The key innovation is the horizontal linking of company inventories through its internet database, and this clinched first place.

How does it work? Information on a subscriber's spare parts inventory is uploaded regularly and automatically by proprietary sparesFinder software from its inventory management system to the sparesFinder database. There it can be viewed by other subscribers to the service. Internally this allows a company to see what spare parts it holds at different sites and reduce levels of duplication (and hence costs). Externally a company can lend or trade spare parts with other subscribers anywhere in the world, to mutual benefit.

What is redundant kit for one manufacturer may be eagerly

sought by another. In this sense, the sparesFinder entry is environmentally sound, finding new owners for redundant equipment and parts which otherwise might have been sent to the tip at some expense. And the system provides a very large pool in which a subscriber can look when a part is needed in a hurry to keep production on-line.

sparesFinder has customers in the chemical, petrochemical, oil and gas, power generation, food processing and mining industries. It has a very strong user group in the North Sea, led by BP (which admits to saving at least £0.5m in a recent trial by logical re-siting of existing spare parts), ExxonMobil and Texaco. In all, more than 100 organisations in some 43 countries are already using the system.

For more information on sparesFinder's system, contact david.stroud@sparesFinder.com

Second place
Optagon software has brought Advantica Technologies (ex-British Gas) second place in this sector. Optagon assesses and improves the performance of processing plant, and quantifies the impact of technical risk on business risk. Advantica has developed its product over a ten-year period and aimed it at oil and gas facilities.

Applying Optagon to a Tunisian gas processing plant associated with the Miskar sour gas field gave 40 options for improvement. Some were simple:

assessment of the fuel gas system showed it could handle raw sour gas and yet it was burning treated gas. Others were less obvious. Ten major improvements were recommended for implementation, calculated to give a 10% increase in production plus increase in plant availability worth \$US19m (£14m) a year in extra revenue.

For more information on Optagon, contact steven.johnson@advanticatech.com

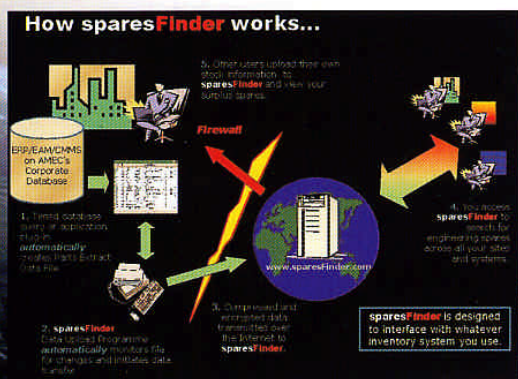
Third place shared
Sharing third place is Kvaerner E&C's ECExtra system. Kvaerner has developed a strategy which disperses engineering and procurement work appropriately around the world, aiming at low cost but high value. ECExtra is part of this strategy. It allows any operation to work with one or more other operations around the world. Technical consultants interface with it so that every concept is tested and proved before it goes on to engineering and design. Amongst other features ECExtra allows real time access to documents.

For more information on ECExtra, contact david.a.white@kvaerner.com

Kvaerner shares third place with BNFL Engineering whose integrated management system ensures that it can maintain compliance with all EH&S obligations during the design stages of new projects, modifications to existing plant and decommissioning. The system includes an auditable record of completion, with particular attention to selection rationale and justification. It allows the complex E&HS performance of a large design organisation facing unique challenges to be clearly developed, controlled and audited.

For more information contact phil.vesey@bnfl.com

How sparesFinder's inventory management system works



“The key innovation is horizontal linking of company inventories through an internet database”