

Operational Excellence: Your Next Five Minutes

I happen to think that achieving operational excellence in key plant processes is the next frontier in O&M. Just a few of the hallmarks of operational excellence might include:

- Optimizing work management
- Embracing zero-tolerance for compliance issues and in-service failures
- Improving thermal performance rigor
- Maximizing the use of available data analytics tools
- Assertively applying best practices at your facility

You might want to seek the counsel of experts outside your plant for fresh perspectives. In this issue of 'Technically Speaking,' our professionals offer a variety of tips that support operational excellence: preventing repeat occurrences through root cause analysis, optimizing your CMMS tool, improving quality and enhancing combustion turbine performance, among others. I hope you find these helpful as, together, we strive for operational excellence.

Excellence is not something you have to wait around for to be driven from higher up in your organization. It is your personal choice: you can choose to bring the next level of operational excellence to your plant. It doesn't have to be a lofty, long-term aspiration or something you seek to achieve down the road. Excellence is...your next five minutes.

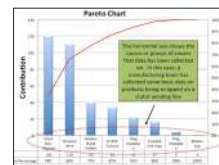
Click on this [Go-To Sheet](#) for a list of our experts, their skill sets and phone numbers. As always, we welcome your comments.

— **Henry Scheck**, General Manager, Engineering & Technical Services, NAES Corporation



Inlet Air Cooling Systems Improve Gas Turbine Performance: An inlet air cooling system offers one of the most cost-effective ways to improve gas turbine performance, especially during the peak hours of hot summer months. [Sanjeev Jolly](#) explains and compares three technologies: evaporative cooling, chilling and wet compression.

Adding Value Through Quality Improvement: A former skeptic, [Brian Beatty](#) explains what made him a believer in formalized quality improvement (QI) processes. He offers a simple, seven-step process – creating a 'QI story' – that characterizes a problem, finds its root cause and prevents its recurrence.



How to Complete a Successful O&M Assessment in a Developing Country: In Part 2 of this two-part article, [Andrew Markle](#) and [Sanjeev Jolly](#) explain the homework you need to do to avoid cultural pitfalls that can derail an assessment as you attempt to bridge the gaps of language, values and performance expectations with a client in a developing country.

CMMS Failure Codes: Two Schools of Thought: There are many ways to set up, utilize and report on failure codes in your CMMS, but Project Engineer [Megan Matthews](#) outlines the two most common approaches: using asset types to classify failures or visual inspection to drive the process.



Failed Tubing and Clamping Assemblies Can Lead to Forced Outages...or Worse: While they don't sound menacing, they can cause injury, equipment damage, fires and forced outages. [Dave Righthouse](#) offers preventive measures that will help mitigate these risks in your plant.