

CASE STUDY

Cameco Corporation Finds Their True North With Prometheus Planning & Scheduling for SAP





Company



Cameco Corporation



Saskatoon, Saskatchewan,
Canada



Mining & Energy

Goals

- Simplify complex SAP functions
- Create efficiencies for planners and schedulers
- Automatically collate documentation and generate reports
- Understand and communicate interdependencies among maintenance crews

Results

- Massive gains in time savings for planners and schedulers
- Optimized preparedness prior to commencing work orders
- Ability to track progress and take proactive action

Cameco Corporation Finds Their True North With Prometheus Planning & Scheduling for SAP

ABOUT CAMECO CORPORATION

Founded in 1988, Cameco Corporation is the world's largest publicly traded uranium company — and one of the global leaders in uranium production. Cameco produces uranium to fuel nuclear reactors in Canada and internationally. It has ownership in mines, mills, and fuel production facilities in Canada, the United States, and Kazakhstan.

The Cigar Lake Mine site, located in northern Saskatchewan, began commercial operation in 2015. It employs some 530 staff and contractors and has repeatedly received safety awards.

CHALLENGES

Originally, the Cigar Lake Mine site was looking for one solution to a basic problem: a fast and easy way to pull multiple documents from multiple sources and to have them all print out with the work order from SAP. Collating these documents ensured maintenance teams were best prepared prior to commencing maintenance work.

However, upon implementing Prometheus Planning & Scheduling for SAP in 2012, they quickly came to realize they could use the solutions to overcome other challenges too. For instance, managing the status of materials and components or producing compliance reports to regulatory bodies. All in all, Prometheus Planning & Scheduling unlocked new ways



to create efficiencies while maintaining or exceeding their already high standards for safety, environmental protection, quality, and accuracy.

REQUIREMENTS

- Collecting maintenance documents from various sources to print with the work orders, to better equip their maintenance crews
- Gaining visibility into the interdependencies between jobs on and off the critical path
- Simplifying and streamlining daily tasks with user-friendly dashboards, tools, and functions that put an end to repetitive data entry work
- Forecasting planned outages as well as regular maintenance activities

SOLUTIONS

The Cigar Lake site has been using **Prometheus Planning & Scheduling for SAP** since 2012. They are fully leveraging the powerful Navigator [now Dashboard] enjoying how it drastically simplifies SAP for Work Management. Now, all the maintenance supervisors have their own configured Navigator that acts as their cockpit for business management. It has become so popular it has extended outside of the maintenance team and into many of the operations groups as well. The Operations teams leverage [Dashboard] for work request approvals, backlog reviews on their assets, and even auto-generating regulatory inspection reports.

Another area where Cameco has found time-saving efficiencies and improved accuracy is by leveraging **Material Shopping Cart**. Floor-level and front-level supervisors are using it to locate materials and components, see in real time what is and is not in stock, and add materials to work orders, while continuing to execute work.

As Kris Halland (Senior Planner, Maintenance) remarks, “You don’t have to use wildcards. You don’t have to get your search terms in the exact right order, or the perfect wording. **Material Shopping Cart saves you time and frustration by consolidating SAP searches into one function. It’s about as close to a Google search as you can get.**”

Most recently, they have started working with Prometheus Group’s **Extended Functionalities (XF)** package to track, manage, and forecast for maintenance shutdowns and turnarounds. Previously, it was a challenge to identify and monitor the maintenance tasks along the critical path, as well as “float” work that could potentially interfere with completing the shutdown on time.

RESULTS

When Cameco adopted the Prometheus Group solutions, they had a small scope of goals they wanted to achieve. Since implementing the tools, they’ve achieved a range of process improvements, created numerous efficiencies, and enhanced what their planners and schedulers are able to do.

- Cameco staff are saving many hours in the day by streamlining planning and scheduling processes – without sacrificing quality of work. Prometheus Planning & Scheduling is simply designed to take labor-intensive, repetitive tasks and automate them. “It can be time consuming to do tasks such as entering selection criteria for SAP variants,” Kris explains. “But now we can do that in just one click. Or for example, scheduling 200 work orders. Where that used to take 20 minutes, now with the mass change function, I can do that in under 30 seconds. And all these small time savings add up to a lot of hours re-gained that we can spend more productively.”
- The various teams now have clear visibility into maintenance work both on and off the critical path. This means supervisors can take proactive action and anticipate issues before timelines are derailed. As Kris says, “We can keep track of the forest and the trees.” Teams have the visibility they need to monitor schedules and individual jobs in their own context, but quickly and easily see how they fit into the bigger picture of next week, next month, and so on. The visual way that Prometheus Planning & Scheduling presents data enables planners, schedulers, supervisors, and even the maintenance technicians to understand the working relationships between various jobs – rather than seeing jobs in isolation. Understanding these interdependencies means they can coordinate, sequence, and execute work in the most effective ways, so that work is always done in the right order, at the right time.
- Maintenance supervisors are using the solutions to do work assignments and dispatching, using the drag-and-drop functionality. **“It’s possible to do some of this work in other tools, but it isn’t always fast or intuitive. The Prometheus solutions opened up new avenues for us,”** says Kris.



Of course, Cameco has big goals and Kris and his team are committed to continuous improvement. They continue to explore new ways they can improve their processes and leverage every feature of Prometheus Planning & Scheduling for SAP. And when they have questions, they know help is just a phone call away. “Prometheus Group has ‘old-fashioned’ customer-relations — in a good way,” says Kris. “When we need something, we don’t have to submit a ticket and wait through a long, drawn-out process to solve a simple problem. I pick up the phone and there’s someone to help. The Prometheus Group team is there, ready to have those conversations.”



“We’ve seen a massive amount of small improvements across all areas that add up to huge time savings. For instance, with one-click scheduling, what used to take 20 minutes now takes 30 seconds. All of a sudden, you have more time to do get more done and to do an even better job.”

— Kris Halland, Senior Planner, Maintenance

Learn more about how Prometheus Group can help your organization today

[LEARN MORE](#)

About Prometheus Group

Prometheus Group is a leading global provider of comprehensive and intuitive enterprise asset management software solutions that work within ERP systems and span the full work management life cycle for both maintenance and operations. Developed jointly with end users, Prometheus software enhances the customer experience for planning, scheduling, and executing work for both routine maintenance and shutdowns and turnarounds, all while protecting the workforce with safety solutions and electronic permit to work. Our straight-forward functionality, graphical visualization, and simple processes enable customers to increase productivity, reduce costs, and improve reporting. For more information, please visit www.prometheusgroup.com.