



WeldCloud Productivity Identifies Bottlenecks, Helps Särkinen Boost Arc-on Time to 20%

- Productivity doubled compared to industry standard
- Bottlenecks identified, true production costs calculated
- Easy installation and onboarding

Situation

Based in Tampere, Finland, Särkinen Industries fabricates large components for the heavy steel, energy, marine, wind power, mining and local industries. Its customers require high quality components that provide durability and reliability in harsh applications. Owner Samuli Särkinen was looking for a system to ensure efficient production, control quality and improve bottom line performance.

Complication

Understanding productivity requires measuring a large number of variables. The time and effort to manually collect data is high, and the results vary greatly between human data collectors.

Solution

Equip the mining fabrication operation with a fleet of 20 ESAB Aristo Mig 4004i inverter-based welders with embedded WeldCloud communication modules and use the WeldCloud Productivity online data management application.

Särkinen can now measure arc-on time for each welding operator and shift, capture welding data and connect it to every component for greater visibility and traceability.

Results

Särkinen averages 20 percent arc-on time across the 20 manual welding stations. This is the maximum possible in a manual MIG/MAG welding operation and more than double the industry average of 8 to 10%.



BENEFIT #1

Bottlenecks Removed

While technically an online application, WeldCloud Productivity has actually proven to be a communication tool between management and operators.

“The problem was lack of information coming to the management level. WeldCloud helped us figure out our production issues,” says Särkinen. “In retrospect, the causes were so mundane. Now the operators know we are there to work with them to solve problems.”

Common problems included lack of proper tools such as grinders or pneumatic needle scalers, waiting for cranes and inconsistent part fit-up.



By discussing information with operators, Särkinen removes obstacles to low arc-on time.

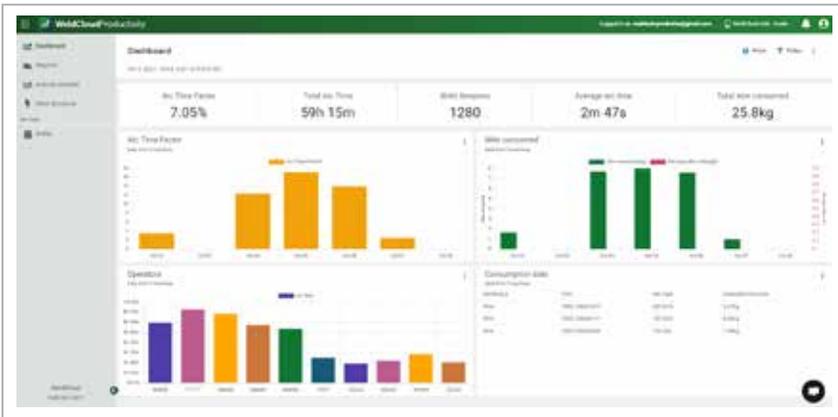
“Most often, the issue is not the welding, but all the activity around the welding. As a result, we can take action, such as providing every operator with a complete set of tools so they can stay productive,” says Särkinen. “If you remove the bottlenecks, arc-on time will take care of itself.”

BENEFIT #2

True Costs Identified

Särkinen works closely with customer design and engineering teams to develop prototypes. Because these are large, complex

and heavy components, fabrication costs are high. With WeldCloud, Särkinen can track and charge for true product development costs.



“WeldCloud dashboards show you your real productivity.”

— Samuli Särkinen

BENEFIT #3

User-Friendly

The WeldCloud-enabled machines only require WiFi to connect to the cloud. The WeldCloud application is as easy to install as Office 365, easy to learn and is accessible from any web-enabled device. Deploying WeldCloud is not a technical issue at all — the key to success requires finding the right people as the bridge between WeldCloud and the operators.

At Särkinen, that person is Building Coordinator and Foreman Tony Saarinen. He was a welder at the company for 15 years and works with computers as a hobby.

“Tony has the fire within to try new things and challenge others around him. The operators respect him because they know he understands issues from their perspective,” says Särkinen.

BENEFIT #4

Ready for Robotics



Having reached the maximum arc-on time for manual welding, Särkinen is now looking into installing robotic welding systems and processes supplied by ESAB. A robotic system will increase

arc-on time up to 80 percent and increase Särkinen’s ability to compete with lower cost countries.

For more information on WeldCloud or our other software solutions, visit indusuite.com