

## System Provides Foundation for Maintenance

For nearly a century, Cerrowire's customer-centered philosophy has guided their focus on service, low cost operations, simplification and innovation. As a leading manufacturer of copper electrical building wire and cable, Cerrowire has built a solid reputation of delivering what they promise. The company supplies building wire for commercial and industrial buildings and residential wire for interior electrical wiring in homes, apartments and manufactured housing.



Cerrowire sells their products to wholesale electrical distributors and retail home improvement centers throughout the United States.

### *Around-the-Clock Quality*

Nearly 250 employees ensure that quality wire and cable products are consistently produced at

the company's Hartsville, Alabama headquarters and 250,000-square-foot manufacturing facility. Cerrowire is a continuous process plant, so maintaining production equipment is key to manufacturing efficiency.

Critical equipment includes extruders and rewinders along with variable speed drives and programmable logic controllers (PLCs) associated with production machinery. Operators depend on the availability of this equipment and drawing lines to consistently produce finished wire gauge that meets the company's quality standards.

With a multi-craft maintenance department covering three production shifts, Cerrowire needed a maintenance system to capture work history, track spares inventory and manage preventive

maintenance (PM). Jesse Cain, the engineering manager responsible for plant equipment maintenance and a veteran in the wire and cable industry, knew that the system must be easy to understand and use. He also wanted the new system to address maintenance basics so his team could learn to use the tool without enduring extensive training.

### *Benchmark's Functionality Proves the Best*

Cerrowire reviewed several systems – and each offered a range of functionality and available at varying price points. The evaluation process culminated with the selection of Benchmark's maintenance management system.

"After reviewing numerous maintenance system packages, we chose Benchmark primarily because it was so easy to use," says Cain. "We were able to get the functionality similar to that offered by larger, more expensive systems. And, we were able to do it without the high cost of software licensing, implementation and training."

The roll-out of Benchmark at Cerrowire was fairly simple and unsophisticated – which is exactly what they wanted. From the beginning, Cain wanted the system to provide a good foundation for managing maintenance work and capturing the history of work performed.

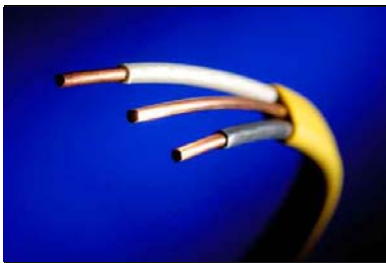
**cerrowire**<sup>™</sup>

— *At A Glance*

- ▶ Founded in 1920 as Circle Wire
- ▶ Over 600 employees across 4 manufacturing sites
- ▶ Hartsville, Alabama plant exceeds 250,000 square feet
- ▶ Continuous process plant with 3 shifts

Today, Cain and his maintenance team rely heavily on Benchmark to track work orders and PM activity. When production personnel or equipment operators submit work requests, the information is entered into Benchmark to generate work orders. Mechanics then perform the required work on a piece of equipment or in a specific area in the plant that needs to be addressed. Completion data (including special notes, when the work was performed, by whom, how and where) is then entered into Benchmark against the work order.

### *Maintenance Tracking Made Easy*



By having this data captured within Benchmark, Cerrowire can effectively track and manage their maintenance work order activity. The

data also provides Cerrowire with important information about production equipment maintenance since the entire work history of any equipment is available for review and reporting within Benchmark.

PM activity is pre-planned and scheduled in the system. Everything from specific procedures to the date maintenance is scheduled is specified in each PM. Cerrowire sets PMs based on machine hours to ensure that routine maintenance is properly scheduled with minimal disruption to production.

Work order reports are available for management to review and analyze scheduled, routine, emergency or PM work performed. The reports specify the number of man hours expended on jobs, any downtime incurred with production equipment and cost calculations for the maintenance department.

Tracking and managing machine parts is one of the most important maintenance functions at Cerrowire. Cain's team uses Benchmark to track nearly 10,000 stock keeping units (SKUs) for inventory management. They use bar code scanners to issue parts against equipment and track costs. Benchmark then provides re-order point indicators for inventory parts, which enhance spares and inventory parts management efficiency.

Locating the parts needed for maintenance jobs is an easy process. Benchmark's multiple look-up and search features speed the process of finding the right part for a particular equipment repair or routine maintenance job. Mechanics quickly find parts by searching the specific part number, by entering a brief description of the equipment or even by spare parts vendor.

Cerrowire's tool room manager uses Benchmark data to perform cycle counts for inventory control. Instant parts usage information from Benchmark makes this process efficient and easy.

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*"Tracking the parts used by our production machinery and seeing the historical patterns of use is very important to us," says Cain.*

*"Benchmark enables us to easily generate daily inventory reports that provide a snapshot of activity. We're controlling our inventory costs and improving our overall inventory management."*

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### *The Value of Reliable Data*

Cain makes it clear that his department's goal is to minimize downtime and keep production flowing. Because all maintenance work is captured in Benchmark, he is able to review the complete maintenance history on any piece of production

# Cerrowire

## CUSTOMER PROFILE



equipment or any plant assets. To Cain, that's a big deal with financial implications: having cost data specific to equipment and plant assets provides excellent information to justify equipment replacement when necessary.

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*"Benchmate gives us exactly what we need to be accountable as a maintenance department," says Cain. "With it, we know what work has been scheduled, when it was actually performed, completion details and reporting so that we can track our maintenance performance. Benchmate is simple – it works and gets the job done. We love it."*

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The job is getting done at Cerrowire, partly thanks to Benchmate. A diligent maintenance team works hard every day to ensure key production equipment remains operational at all times. Proactive measures are taken to perform scheduled maintenance to minimize downtime. As a result, Cerrowire continues to supply top quality copper electrical building wire and cable to customers who depend on



them nationwide. ■

### About Benchmate

"Benchmate develops and delivers powerful, yet simple to use and easy to learn maintenance management software designed for small to medium size work forces to reduce costs, increase efficiencies and streamline processes."

### Value Distinctions

At Benchmate, we:

- ▶ Personalize our client relationships and build upon our client-first culture
- ▶ Leverage our 20 years of maintenance management software experience by consistently delivering the tools and solutions today's maintenance work forces require
- ▶ Focus on the small to medium size maintenance department and design systems that specifically meet their needs
- ▶ Equip maintenance personnel with an easy to learn and use application that is flexible to adapt to changing user needs without compromising depth of system functionality
- ▶ Provide an intuitive interface that enables quick start with minimal training and set-up to facilitate immediate use and ROI



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