



RWE's Non-Destructive Testing expertise provided cost savings of 30%

CASE STUDY

Didcot A, a 2,000MW coal/gas-fired power station, was heavily reliant on Original Equipment Manufactures (OEM) for managing the Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) of major overhauls. RWE took over the management and implementation of statutory NDT and made savings of 30%.



The need for our expertise

The significant changes that occurred following the liberalisation of the UK power industry and technological advances in power station design, have led to the need for flexible and innovative plant life management initiatives. As a result power stations, such as Didcot A, were having difficulty managing contracts due to the number of interfaces between contractors and the high costs inflated by the lack of effective competition.

A review of Non Destructive Testing (NDT) practices was undertaken to provide alternative sources to the OEM. This review highlighted the extensive NDT expertise within RWE and recommended bringing the management and implementation of NDT services in-house.

Putting our expertise into action

During 2002, RWE directly managed and implemented the NDT requirements at Didcot A power station on both the boiler and turbine outages for the first time. The major strength of this in-house NDT expertise was the consistent cost-effective approach to managing the inspection and the resulting mechanical works.

RWE's specialists implemented a number of in-house tools, such as computer database and technical procedures. These, combined with the proficiency and knowledge of our NDT engineers, proved invaluable in fulfilling the rigorous demands of unit overhauls, where late return to service can cost in excess of €170,000 per day in lost revenue.

The difference we made

RWE's NDT services managed and implemented the NDT requirements of Didcot A in an effective and efficient way.

Our experience in resource planning and technical management were key to this achievement and generated costs savings for Didcot A power station of over 30% when compared to the same work content in 2001.

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