

CORTEX™

WELD FAILURES OPTIMIZATION | ROOT CAUSE



INITIAL USE CASE

OnPoint partnered with Big River Steel to deliver a solution around the industry-wide problem of strip breaks, occurring in the continuous galvanizing process. Process experts often have hypotheses into issues such as these but have difficulty pinpointing the root cause. OnPoint's CORTEX software, paired with Big River Steel's process knowledge, provided unprecedented visibility into the data behind this process. OnPoint focused on analyzing variables pertinent to strip breaks from the failed welds, which can shut down a production line for as long as 36 hours depending on the location of the break within the process. OnPoint analyzed more than 6 months of data consisting of 80 variables.

SOLUTION

Using Big River's data, OnPoint pinpointed an equipment issue and then determined the optimal set points that produced the strongest weld. Since implementing those recommendations, the galvanizing line has gone from multiple strip breaks per month to zero, keeping employees safer and improving bottom line. Equipping Big River's operations teams with the power of the CORTEX platform has continued to generate improvements across several areas of the mill. The facility has seen both an increase in production efficiency and a reduction in unplanned downtime, capturing millions in additional value.

"All those involved in the steel industry know strip breaks are a challenge. Since implementing the solutions, we've gone from several strip breaks a month to near zero, keeping our employees safe and improving our bottom-line profitability."

- Dave Stickler, CEO, Big River Steel

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