

## New SmartSignal Research Study Identifies Major Gap in Power Industry

### **Most Plants Lack Appropriate Information to Maximize Operations, Availability, and Capacity**

**Chicago, Ill, September 9, 2008** — SmartSignal Corp., a leader in equipment-performance intelligence worldwide, today released findings of a new industry-wide research study. The study identified several key factors necessary to improve availability and capacity in power plants--and the need for most plants to improve their levels of equipment-performance intelligence to maximize these factors and achieve peak performance.

The blind study, conducted by *POWER magazine*, generated nearly 1500 responses. The results indicate that six factors are almost universally recognized to be of very high importance: aging plants and equipment, manning levels, unplanned outages, maintenance intervals, derates, and personnel skill levels. However, in spite of their importance, fewer than 25 percent of respondents believe that they have appropriate equipment-performance intelligence to optimize these factors in their plants.

<b>Factor</b>	<b>% of respondents indicating factor is important to extremely important</b>	<b>% of respondents indicating that they have excellent information to optimize the identified factor</b>
Aging plants and equipment	89	19
Manning levels	86	18
Unplanned outages	90	24
Maintenance intervals	91	21
Derates	77	11
Personnel skill level	95	18

Jim Gagnard, President and CEO of SmartSignal, commented, “These results verify the gap in the industry that we’ve observed, but we’re surprised to see how big this gap still is today. The industry is facing so many pressures. Our focus has been on creating predictive-analytic solutions that power plants can use to optimize their workforces, aging equipment, and maintenance procedures.”

“The good news is that these solutions can really plug the gap. They’re flexible, easy-to-use, and efficient to deploy. We’ve proven in hundreds of plants just how successful they can be in improving operations, availability, and capacity with virtually no plant time required,” Gagnard added.

The study was mailed to a representative sample of *POWER magazine’s* subscriber list in June, 2008 with results tabulated in July, 2008.

## About SmartSignal

SmartSignal maximizes worldwide industry equipment performance by detecting, diagnosing, and prioritizing equipment and process problems before they become costly failures. Drawing on 40 patents, SmartSignal delivers specific, relevant, and actionable intelligence that makes people more proactive and productive. SmartSignal serves clients in power generation, oil and gas, mining, aviation, pulp and paper, and other process industries worldwide. SmartSignal and its clients have won over twenty awards for excellence, including The *Wall Street Journal* Technology Innovation Award. For more information, visit [www.smartsignal.com](http://www.smartsignal.com).

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