

Modern maintenance

All the benefits of 'your own' laboratory...

In many industries, maintenance costs are a major expense. It's an expense that can be controlled and reduced through use of modern maintenance methods. One such method is Condition Based Maintenance – as the name implies, maintenance is scheduled and carried out based on the condition of machinery; this carries many benefits:

- Maintenance intervals on 'healthy' machinery can be increased, saving time and money:
 - Maintenance induced faults are avoided;
- Units that are 'poorly' are treated before their condition deteriorates to critical levels:
 - Repairs can be carried out while still relatively inexpensive and before damage becomes critical;
 - Maintenance can be scheduled during planned stoppages.

One of the ways of determining the condition of a unit is through analysis of the vehicle's fluids. Like blood in a human body, lubricants flow through the vehicle systems. Akin to a blood test, oil analysis not only determines the condition of the oil, but also that of the machine. A selection of advanced tests is used to gather this information – physical and chemical properties of the oil, levels of contaminants and, crucially, information about the type and severity of wear. Test packages for coolants, greases and fuel are also available.

Oil analysis is affordable, non-intrusive and need not require capital investment. It can detect developing faults early, increase lubricant life and reduce fuel consumption through efficient vehicle operation. It can also be used for post-failure diagnosis – particularly important for warranty claims. When recovery costs for a single vehicle can run into thousands of pounds, avoiding a

single breakdown by early fault detection can pay for an annual oil analysis programme many times over.

Independent oil analysis facilities, such as OAS, unlike the laboratories affiliated with oil and maintenance companies who also have a sales agenda, offer all the benefits of 'your own' laboratory, with a commitment solely to the clients' requirements. This can be achieved without capital investment and operating costs. Such a facility can offer specialist advice based on a wealth of experience.

The laboratory service begins with advice on setting up a tailored Condition Monitoring Programme, training staff on sampling techniques, and provision of sampling kit. Samples are analysed promptly and the results are returned with a diagnostic report pinpointing likely causes of abnormal conditions. As a history for each unit is established, changes to the monitoring schedule can be advised to ensure that critical information is gathered at the minimum cost. Each client is provided with their own complimentary software package, enabling on-site engineers to view and evaluate the unit performances individually, by type, lubricant or criticality.

Oil Analysis Services and Swansea Tribology Services – a well established pair of independent laboratories – have specialist electrical (OAS) and lubrication (STS) oil analysis laboratories. OAS/STS have built a reputation for expertise with some 30 years' operation of a client orientated service, which includes worldwide support, 24/7, by some of the most experienced people in the industry.



Ongoing investment in equipment, bespoke client software and staff development ensure the provision of reliable modern methodology, while the recent merger of the two companies has brought additional expertise with the expansion of both capability and capacity.

It's never too late to start saving on maintenance – contact us today to learn more about condition monitoring, oil analysis, and our software, tests and packages on offer.



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