

Repair or Replace

The ultimate question

Downtime causes unnecessary expense for manufacturers, so they must be proactive when maintaining equipment. Connected machines on the assembly line collect analytic data about the equipment's condition. With this data, manufacturers can predict faults and find a solution before any downtime occurs.

When manufacturers first detect a fault, they should inspect the equipment and the entire system to determine the best fix. Plant managers must consider many factors when deciding whether to repair the equipment or replace it to improve production efficiency.

Cost

Return-on-investment is an important consideration when dealing with a broken machine. Both repairing and replacing involve upfront and ongoing costs. Repairs may be more cost effective than a replacement when the machine first breaks down. However, a replacement part will need less maintenance in the long term and can be delivered and installed before the original part is fixed.

Efficiency

If the rest of the assembly line works to full capacity, manufacturers can source a replacement part to solve the issue. However, if different parts of the assembly line malfunction regularly, manufacturers should invest in new equipment to prevent regular breakdowns.

Availability

While obsolete replacement parts can be used to fix a machine fault, it may be difficult to locate the correct component. Because of this, manufacturers may want to stockpile the necessary parts to prepare for unplanned downtime. However, it can be expensive to maintain and store them.

Instead, manufacturers can rely on an obsolete parts supplier, such as EU Automation, to maintain the components and deliver them when needed.

By sourcing obsolete parts from the right supplier, manufacturers can get their machines up and running quickly, without having to wait for a part to be replaced and returned to the factory. If cost effectiveness and efficiency are most important to you, it might be worth considering part replacement when facing this dilemma.