



January 2002

## Activities in brief...

**Waste minimisation** - new approaches, solutions and breakthroughs

**2002 Australian Museum Eureka Awards** - \$10,000 prizes - opportunities for manufacturers

**Consulting by AMC** - the best way to find solutions and improvements ... fast

**The National Packaging Covenant** - we help companies wrap it up!

**AMCs educat** - online training & education catalogue - the pilot is flying!

**Smartlink Online** - manufacturers improvement by Degree

**EACC** - AMC alliance with Euro Australian Co-operation Centre

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The Advanced Manufacturing Centre at the  
Australian Technology Park

# Innovate

## What has the AMC done in 2001?

*An update for our members, associates and manufacturers*

### Waste Not Want Not

Kris Cooke, Project Co-ordinator for the AMC's National Industry Waste Minimisation Project, with the AMC specialist consultant team, co-ordinated 5 focus groups in the pharmaceutical, food manufacturing, wood products, metals and furnishing areas.

We have drawn together industry groups to look at common waste issues and solutions. In regular meetings involving company representatives from each sector we:

- § share models of waste minimisation in practice between companies
- § had presentations from experts on innovative technologies and techniques that are accessible now to Australian manufacturers
- § held group discussions on specific projects of interest set by the participating members
- § developed company specific projects

Some of the results achieved:

- ~ Water reductions of 120 Kls daily, via simple water valve upgrade.
- ~ Opportunity identified by 'walk-through' audit to save energy costs of over \$40,000 p.a. in compressed air costs via simple maintenance procedure.
- ~ Timber group found way to eliminate cardboard corners from packaging of structural timber. This is in the process of being rolled out nationally with the potential to eliminate 7 million cardboard corners annually!

As well as obvious benefits in the technical areas and in specific projects, there are strong networking benefits. Company representatives in this field are typically isolated within their own

company's structure and welcome the chance to share their experiences.

To find out more contact Kris Cooke 02 9209 4209 or [k.cooke@amc.atp.com.au](mailto:k.cooke@amc.atp.com.au)

### 2002 Eureka Awards

The Australian Museum launched its Eureka Awards "to reward excellence in Australian science and raise the profile of science in the community".

There are 16 different awards including:

- § \$10,000 Institution of Engineers Australia Eureka Prize for Engineering Innovation
  - § \$10,000 Institution of Engineers Australia Eureka Prize for Engineering Journalism
  - § (Non-monetary prize) Australian Museum Prize for Industry
- Entries close on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2002 so investigate this opportunity now. For more details phone 02 9320 6224 or visit [www.amonline.net.au/eureka](http://www.amonline.net.au/eureka) or email: [rogerm@austmus.gov.au](mailto:rogerm@austmus.gov.au)

### AMC Consulting Services

**Layout and simulation models** In conjunction with University of NSW, Dr Farhad Shafaghi, AMC's Project Director and Dragan Bejatovic, AMC's IT Systems Manager have done exciting new work in simulation modelling with a major manufacturer. We developed a basic model, using simulation software, of one of the client's manufacturing areas to successfully identify and solve issues; then trained staff to ensure ongoing improvement.

**Machine effectiveness studies** Dr Peter Fisher and Jennifer McDonnell of AMC have completed detailed studies on the overall machine effectiveness of blister packaging lines in two pharmaceutical companies. Companies are now implementing changes that will achieve machine effectiveness improvements of 20-40%. (See Fig 1. over)



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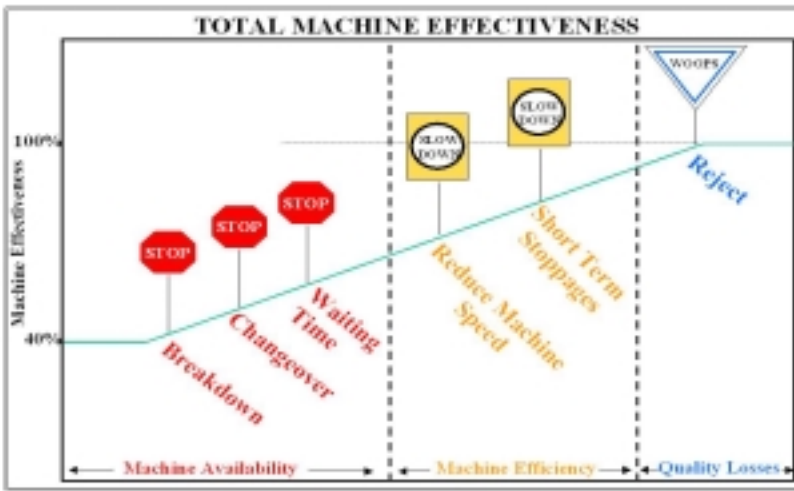


Fig 1. AMC key losses in machine effectiveness study

**AMC Pharmaceutical group**

In 2001, Dr Peter Fisher, AMC associate and consultant and Jennifer McDonnell, AMC Project Co-ordinator saw breakthroughs achieved by the Pharmaceutical Waste Group with the group setting the pace for industry in issues of regulatory compliance.

The group’s achievements include:

- § signing the National Packaging Covenant and drafting action plans
- § Reduced waste disposal costs ie. recycling fibre drums
- § Reduced waste to landfill via Worm Farm development and LDPE recycling
- § Minimisation of hazardous chemicals by substituting alternatives

Currently the group is:

- § quantifying waste streams to develop waste audit procedures and standards applicable to the whole group.
- § undertaking studies in incineration to solve critical issues and find ways to minimise waste sent to incineration.

**EACC - Our European Alliance**

AMC has formed a strategic alliance with the Euro Australian Co-operation Centre (EACC). EACC offers a service for the development of Australian-European bilateral co-operation and interactions.

AMC and EACC provides assistance to locate potential partners for companies seeking to expand their markets through technology and knowledge transfer and technology marketing.

Prospects or enquiries from Europe, related to manufacturing of interest to companies or clients in Australia can be viewed from AMC’s Web Site [www.amc-atp.com](http://www.amc-atp.com) 'Services' button. Contact Dragan Bejatovic at the AMC 02 9209 4209 for more information.

**NPC - we wrap it up!**

What is the National Packaging Covenant (NPC)? - Federal Government initiative to involve companies in reducing the environmental impact of packaging throughout the supply chain and support kerbside recycling.

AMC's Kris Cooke says, *"The important thing for manufacturers to know is that the major focus of the NPC is in minimising all wastes (not just packaging) and involves the principles of process improvement. It's not a big task and can be developed from your existing environmental management system or other informal waste minimisation initiatives. The key is to document what you're doing and commit to continuous improvements."*

Last year AMC ran 12 workshops in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide to help companies fulfil their obligations. One workshop focussed on creating a NPC action plan; the other focussed on understanding reporting requirements.

Through working with the AMC, several pharmaceutical companies have already signed the covenant and submitted action plans. The Cosmetics Toiletries and Fragrances Association of Australia has undertaken to promote

these AMC workshops to their members. They will be held in February 2002.

Contact Kris Cooke 02 9209 4209 or [k.cooke@amc.atp.com.au](mailto:k.cooke@amc.atp.com.au) for details

**educat - the pilot is up and flying**

educat is the product of joint efforts of the AMC's project team and the industry Advisory Group, formed to support our e-commerce activities. educat is a unique, Australian e-commerce education and training catalogue that is on-line, easy to use and relevant to Australian manufacturing industry.

The success of the educat pilot allows us to proceed to our next phase which is to develop it to include technologies and research, bringing vital information to the heart of Australian manufacturing.

In 2002 we look forward to continuing to work with industry to help fulfil the AMCs aim of providing the competitive edge to Australian manufacturing

View **educat** on our website or contact Margie Kennard 02 9209 4209 for more information.

**Smartlink improvement by Degree**

One of the AMC's business partners is **Smartlink**, National Institute for Manufacturing Management - bringing education and research resources, industry and regional associations, together.

Smartlink's **Graduate Certificate in Management (Manufacturing)** is proving popular with our industry contacts taking the opportunity to train their key people.

The **Graduate Diploma** builds on this with a range of degrees at Masters and PhD level available for those seeking further qualification.

In 2002 there are some scholarship opportunities, confirmed in South Australia and still being reviewed for other areas.

Contact AMC's Margie Kennard phone: 02 9209 4209 or email: [farhad@atp.com.au](mailto:farhad@atp.com.au) for details.