

Major Pharmaceutical Site: 29% reduction in compressed air use

We reviewed the performance of the instrument air compressors at a primary manufacturing site. The project allowed a compressor to be permanently switched off.

The Challenge

We were tasked with reviewing the generation and use of compressed air onsite.

Compressed air is dried before being delivered to site. The original dryers used compressed air to regenerate the desiccant drying beds, which were consuming approximately 15% of the total compressed air.

We recommended a change to the air drying technology being used and were given the go-ahead to proceed providing we could deliver the project with zero impact to production.

Methodology

The introduction of a new method of air drying required site to be confident that the system would be reliable and not affect product quality. Also, there was an additional constraint that production could not be affected by this energy reduction project.

We identified that regeneration by steam-heated air provided the most efficient solution. We worked with the production and utility managers to ensure the process was understood and could be implemented smoothly. This project was engineered and managed by Projective and was achieved without impacting production or affecting product quality.



Newly installed air dryers

Result

The project resulted in a 29% reduction in the amount of compressed air used on site and hence a 29% reduction in electricity consumption. This was sufficient to allow a compressor to be permanently switched off.

This is equivalent to over £130k and 1,080 tonnes of CO₂ per annum saving, which takes into account the steam used in regeneration of the beds. The installation was carried out on time and on budget, to the client's requirements.

Benefits

- ▶ Net annual savings of **£130,000**
- ▶ Carbon dioxide savings of **1,080 tonnes** per annum
- ▶ **Short payback time** of 2 years



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