

## White Paper

Eliminating  
**Unplanned  
Production Downtime**  
Instances Due to Replacement  
of M8 Proximity Sensors  
in Mig Welding Cell



## Continuous Improvement Opportunity:

The HTM Sensors Cost Reduction Vending System has identified that a mig welding production line Cell in Toronto, ON had unplanned production downtime instances due to replacement of M8 Proximity Sensors. This Cell is one of three identical mig welding cells that create instrument panels.

HTM performed an audit on the Cell to determine which strategy will best eliminate costs and downtime related to this sensor application.

Discussions with Maintenance Management while observing the Cell in action revealed that most M8 sensors are being replaced in one application. The reason for sensor replacement in this high usage spot is impact with the finished part while the operator is unloading it.

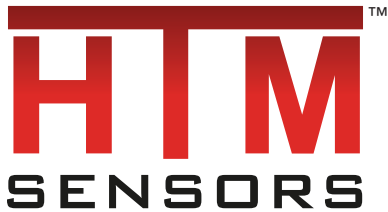
It was also observed that M8 sensors had become loose in their mounting brackets. This is common when mounting nuts can only be used on one side of the bracket and can lead to exposure to further impact damage.



## Continuous Improvement Proposal:

- 1) Work with Maintenance to create a simple protective cover to absorb any impact from the finished part while it is being removed.
- 2) Install Quick Tube mounting brackets to lock the sensors into place - ensuring that they do not become loose and exposed to further impact damage.





Eliminating Unplanned Production Downtime Instances  
Due to Replacement of M8 Proximity Sensors in Mig Welding Cell

### Continuous Improvement Implementation:

The manufacturer created sensor brackets designed to protect the sensors against impact when parts are being unloaded. The sensor brackets were installed the week of October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The brackets have been effective at absorbing impact when the parts are unloaded as is evident in the impact damage on the brackets.

### Result:

Prior to installing the protective brackets, the series lines replaced an average of 5 sensors per month. **Since the installation of these brackets, ZERO M8 sensors have been vended.** The installation of these protective brackets will result in an estimated **annual savings of \$2,980.00** as well as the **elimination of 60 unplanned production downtime instances.**

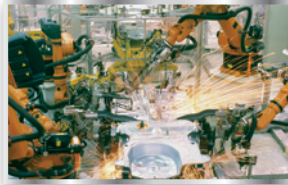


ELIMINATION OF **60** UNPLANNED  
PRODUCTION  
DOWNTIME  
INSTANCES

**\$2,980**  
ESTIMATED ANNUAL SAVINGS



## DOWNTIME REDUCTION VENDING SYSTEM



## TOTAL COST SAVINGS WITH CONSIGNMENT SERVICE

- VENDOR MANAGED INVENTORY
- CONSIGNMENT STOCK
- CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT DATA
- AUTOMATED USAGE MONITORING

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SENSORS

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