

STEAM LINK®**Advanced Steam Energy Solutions****INDUSTRY BRIEFING – STEAM ENERGY****Maximising Returns on Steam Plant Investments**

Investing in steam plants can be a highly profitable venture if done correctly. Steam plants are a critical component in various industries, providing the necessary energy to power operations and processes. However, the key to maximising returns on such investments lies in efficiency and strategic management.

One of the primary ways to ensure a high return on investment (ROI) for steam plants is through enhancing their efficiency. A study highlighted that a significant percentage of fuel consumption in steam plants is avoidable, with potential savings opportunities having an average payback period of 1.7 years. This indicates that with proper management and optimisation, steam plants can not only reduce operational costs but also improve their financial performance swiftly.

Creating and maintaining a steam balance is essential for optimising the performance of a steam plant. A steam balance involves understanding all aspects of the plant's steam system, including generation, distribution, control, production process, and condensate removal - recovery systems. By supplying the correct volume of energy at the right steam pressure and temperature, and with the required steam quality, a plant can significantly reduce energy losses, thus enhancing its thermal energy cycle efficiency.

Furthermore, it is crucial for steam plant Managers to effectively communicate the financial benefits of these investments to decision-makers. Proposals for capital investment in steam efficiency must clearly demonstrate a substantial contribution to the corporation's ROI. This involves overcoming perceptual barriers and aligning engineering priorities with financial objectives.

In addition to technical improvements, operational and behavioural changes can also lead to significant savings. Approximately half of the identified opportunities for efficiency improvements do not require capital

investment but rather in process integration or procedures. This highlights the importance of a holistic approach to managing steam plants, one that encompasses both technical upgrades and managerial practices.

For those looking to invest in steam plants, it is vital to conduct thorough economic analyses that incorporate the technical elements' impact on investment costs and productivity. Early cost analyses must be accurate and consider the long-term financial model of the plant's operations.

In conclusion, maximising returns on steam plant investments requires a combination of technical efficiency, strategic management, and effective communication between plant managers and financial decision-makers. By focusing on these areas, investors can ensure that their steam plant operations are not only energy-efficient but also financially rewarding.

For more information on how Steam Link® can assist your company in maximising steam plant performance and sustainability,

call 07 3881 1605 or via **E-mail** steam@steamlink.com.au

and leave your contact details, a steam specialist will call you within 3 working days.

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