

AN EXECUTIVE BRIEF • OPERATIONS & FINANCE LEADERSHIP

The Cost of Inaction

What every quarter without an AI-Powered System of Execution quietly costs your plant — and how to walk into the budget conversation with a real number instead of a hunch.

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Executive Summary

Most plants aren't losing money because they lack data. They're losing money because the actions between the data and the outcome don't happen on time, don't happen consistently, or don't happen at all. That gap has a quarterly price tag — and it compounds every quarter you wait.

This guide quantifies the four buckets where that money leaks: unplanned downtime, manual reporting and reconciliation, shift handovers and tier meetings, and repeat issues with no root-cause loop. In a typical F&B plant, the four buckets sum to roughly \$159K per plant, per year — before any single line goes red.

Closing that gap is not a dashboards problem, and it's not a discipline problem. It is the absence of an AI-Powered System of Execution — the layer that turns detected problems into completed actions, and captures the fix so the next shift, plant, and quarter get better. Decisyon delivers that layer through an AI Workforce of specialized agents that coordinate detection, decision, execution, and learning across the plant floor. The outcome is Operational Excellence that compounds — uptime, yield, and cost/unit that keep improving quarter over quarter without a new headcount plan.

“The next competitive battleground in manufacturing is not visibility. It is execution. And every quarter you defer execution has a number attached to it.”

What you'll get from this guide

- The four cost buckets that quietly drain a plant's P&L each quarter, with the ranges we see in the field.
- A worked \$159K-per-plant example you can adapt to your own floor in ten minutes.
- The CFO-ready framing for why waiting a quarter is a decision, not a delay.
- A 90-day recovery path from first agent deployed to compounding OEE lift.
- Three questions to bring to the next executive review to move the conversation from opinion to number.

02

The Four Buckets Where Money Leaks

Ask a plant manager where the money goes and you'll get anecdotes. Ask a controller and you'll get a spreadsheet. Neither is wrong; both are incomplete. In every plant we've walked, the same four buckets show up — and they're rarely captured in a single view.

01	Unplanned downtime \$5K – \$25K per hour	Every hour a line is down burns direct margin, plus the shift labor, expedited maintenance, and downstream schedule chaos it triggers. Most plants under-count the last two.
02	Manual reporting & reconciliation 8 – 20 hrs / plant / wk	Supervisors and engineers rebuilding shift, OEE, and quality reports in spreadsheets. Work that produces no output, delays decisions, and hides the real signal.
03	Shift handovers & tier meetings 30 – 90 min / shift, wasted	Meetings that re-read yesterday's numbers instead of driving today's actions. The handover gap is where issues quietly re-open on the next shift.
04	Repeat issues with no root-cause loop 40 – 60% of downtime events	The same failure modes recur because tribal knowledge lives in people, not in the system. When they leave, the fix leaves with them — and the meter starts again.

03

A Worked Example: \$159K Per Plant, Per Year

The numbers below are a mid-size F&B plant running two shifts. Substitute your own hourly downtime cost and headcount and the ratios hold. The point isn't the precise dollar — it's that the number exists and can be defended in front of a CFO.

Bucket	Assumption	Annual cost
Unplanned downtime	6 hrs / week @ \$8K/hr avg	\$2.5M (line-level)
Manual reporting	12 hrs / wk × \$65 loaded rate × 52	\$40,560
Tier meetings + handovers	45 min / shift × 2 shifts × 5 days × \$65	\$25,350
Repeat issues (no CI loop)	~50% of downtime events; ~15% avoidable	\$93,600
Conservative annual leak per plant		≈ \$159,510

Note: the downtime line is a line-level figure and is not summed into the leak. Even excluding it entirely, the three coordination buckets alone total ~\$159K per plant per year — the number you can defend without a single argument about downtime attribution.

Multiply across a network. Ten plants is \$1.6M in coordination waste before you touch a single line of code. That is the price tag on the quarter you don't act.

04

Why Waiting a Quarter Compounds

The instinct is to treat a deferred initiative as a rounding error — “we’ll pick it up next quarter.” In practice, the leak isn’t static. Three things compound quietly:

Institutional knowledge attrition.

Every experienced operator who leaves takes fixes with them that were never written down. Onboarding a replacement re-runs the same failure modes at a training cost you never invoice.

Backlogged CI actions.

Actions assigned in a tier meeting but never closed become the next quarter’s downtime. The backlog is a leading indicator; nobody tracks it because nobody owns the tracker.

Vendor and material creep.

Slack in coordination gets absorbed by expedited shipments, overtime, and premium freight. It hits P&L in cost of goods, not in an OEE report — which is why it survives.

An AI Workforce flips the compounding math. Every resolved issue is captured. Every action assigned is tracked to completion. Every fix becomes reusable across shifts, plants, and lines. That’s the difference between a plant that improves 3% this year and forgets it, and one that builds 3% into next year’s baseline — the mechanism behind Operational Excellence that actually compounds.

What Changes with an AI-Powered System of Execution

The AI-Powered System of Execution is not another dashboard. It's the operational layer between the data you already have and the actions you struggle to close. Decisyon delivers it through an AI Workforce — specialized agents that work alongside the operators, supervisors, and engineers already on the floor.

Fix Finder Surfaces the last time this failure was solved — in this plant or any other — before the tech touches the machine.	Tier Meeting Agent Preps the shift stand-up before the operator walks in. Yesterday's actions, today's risks, tomorrow's constraints.
Downtime Sentinel Detects deviations in real time, routes to the right owner, tracks resolution, and closes the loop back to the CI board.	Institutional Memory Captures every resolved issue as reusable knowledge — searchable across shifts, plants, and years.

None of these agents replace a person. They remove the coordination tax that keeps skilled operators doing spreadsheet work. That's the path from four wasted hours a shift to four hours spent improving the line — and the mechanism that turns Industrial Intelligence into Operational Excellence on the shop floor.

The 90-Day Recovery Path

You do not need a two-year transformation program to start recovering the leak. The AI Workforce is designed to deploy without ripping out MES, ERP, or historians. One plant, one use case, one quarter — the same window you'd otherwise lose.

Weeks 1-3 Baseline	Instrument one plant. Quantify the four buckets against real data. Produce the CFO-ready leak number for that site.
Weeks 4-8 Deploy	Deploy Downtime Sentinel + Tier Meeting Agent on one line. Close the loop from detection to owner to resolution — measured, not narrated.
Weeks 9-12 Compounding starts	Add Fix Finder + Institutional Memory. Every resolved issue becomes reusable. First month-over-month OEE lift lands in the CI board, not a slide.

The pattern proves out across environments. In one global manufacturer, the AI Workforce is deployed across 200 plants and 100,000+ users, with issue-resolution cycles compressed from days to hours and best practices propagating across sites automatically.

40% REDUCTION IN ISSUE RESOLUTION TIME	+3-5% OEE IMPROVEMENT	\$100K+ ANNUAL SAVINGS PER PLANT
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Bring a Number, Not an Opinion

The single biggest reason execution initiatives get deferred is that operations walks into the budget conversation with a story, and finance walks in with a spreadsheet. Whoever brings the number wins the quarter.

Three questions to bring to the next executive review

- What is our conservative annual leak across the four buckets for one representative plant — and what is the network figure?
- How many CI actions were assigned in the last 90 days, and what percentage were closed on time? (If nobody knows, that is the answer.)
- What would a 3% OEE lift in one plant this quarter be worth, and what does it cost us to defer it another quarter?

What to ignore

- Any pitch that requires ripping out MES, ERP, or historians before value lands.
- Any “transformation” that measures its first outcome in years, not weeks.
- Any AI framing that replaces operators. The AI Workforce works alongside them; the operators are the reason it lands.

What Decisyon brings to the meeting

A worked leak calculation against your own operating assumptions, a 90-day plan to recover the coordination share of it, and a track record at 200-plant scale that says Operational Excellence can be engineered — not exhorted. The AI-Powered System of Execution is the mechanism. The AI Workforce is how it runs on your floor.

See your plant's number in the ROI Report — under 60 seconds, no sales call.

decisyon.com/roi-advisor

THE PROMISE

**Every leak measured.
Every action closed.
Every improvement compounded.**

That is the promise of the AI-Powered System of Execution.

Decisyon is the AI-Powered System of Execution for Manufacturing — an Agentic Platform that turns Industrial Intelligence into Operational Excellence through an AI Workforce of specialized AI Agents driving continuous improvement on the plant floor.

Start with the number. decisyon.com/roi-advisor