

# TRACTIAN Solutions at American Wood Fibers: A Results Study



**KEY FINDINGS**  
**50% Increase in Production & 60% Decrease in Downtime in 3 months**

” *Why TRACTIAN? Eliminate silly mistakes and find low hanging fruit. You can get very busy in the day to day life on the maintenance side, you get wired in on PM's or a stack of WO's, so it's important to do it in a fashion that is smart, and that was the appeal of TRACTIAN!*



**John Davis**  
 Vice President  


AMERICAN WOOD FIBERS is a leading provider of sustainable forestry products. AMERICAN WOOD FIBERS has multiple brands under their name, which produce a wide range of items, from Wood Flour, Grilling & Fuel Pellets, Pallets, Bales and many more. Typical assets at these facilities include Dryer Drums, Shavers, Bearings, and related assets.

## Challenge

- High costs on unplanned downtime
- 24/7 operation is tough on the machines?
- Every asset is critical. If one asset goes down, the line stops?
- Safety is a large concern as kiln burning is inherently dangerous.

## Solution

- Fault-finding tool for automatic failure detection
- AI-powered algorithms prescribe actions to be taken, preventing downtime
- Increase in asset availability & production, generating cost savings and ROI



## PROJECT NUMBERS

 **100+ critical assets**  
 monitored by Smart Trac sensor

 **50+ Faults Detected through Auto-Diagnosis**

 **1.5M+ Data Samples**



# Benefits of TRACTIAN

“When you come in the morning you can see in real time how the systems are running or not running, and set your priority for the day. Something you would never notice on your own, now all of a sudden, you are directed and focused into an area that’s far more important than a routine oil change on equipment. Directing folks in a smart way, to the areas of interest that make sense throughout the day is paramount. “

“We can look at what the low hanging fruit is, at any given minute, at any given day.”



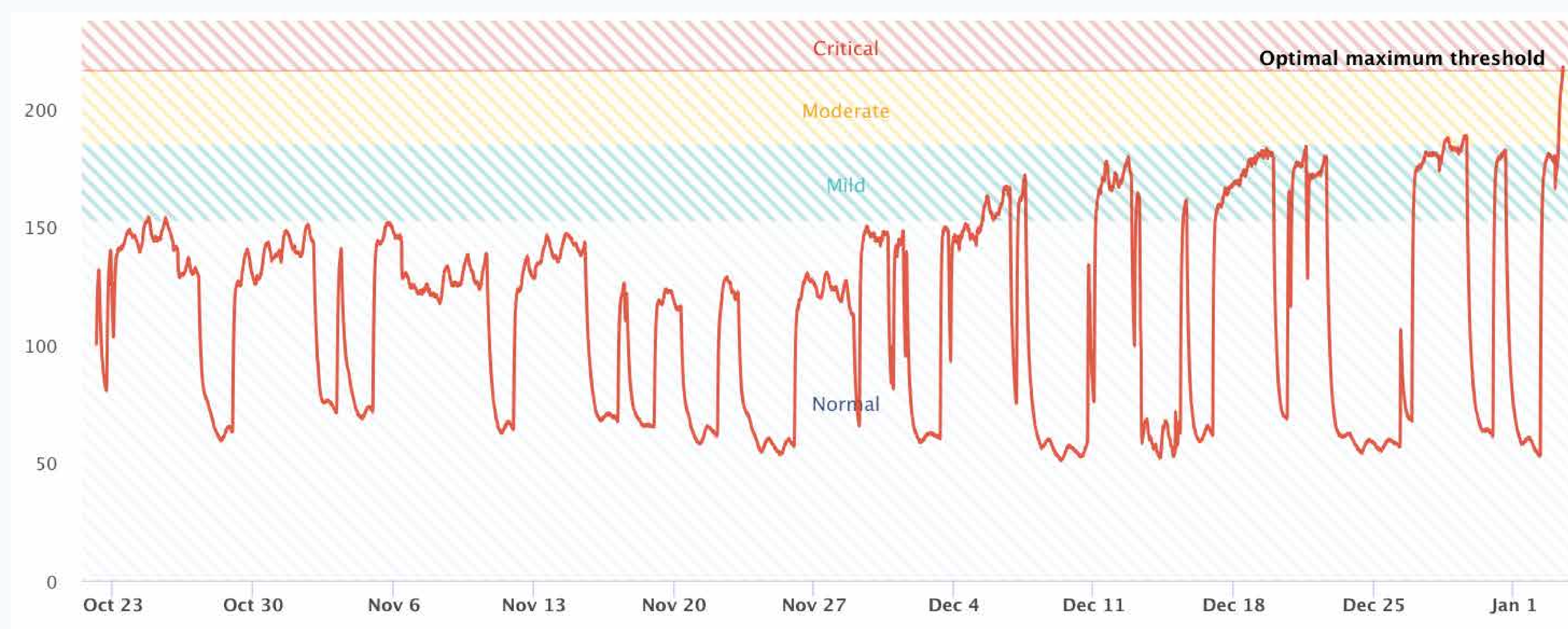
**John Davis**  
Vice President  
AMERICAN WOOD FIBERS

## Identified Failures

### High Temperature Identified by AI

Asset: SC 204  
Solution: Temperature Monitoring  
Saving: Avoided Replacing New Unit & Downtime

One of the interesting challenges for AMERICAN WOOD FIBERS is the danger of high heat and fire, in areas where they are not supposed to be. In the case of pallet and bale production, excessive heat will not lead to a positive outcome. Smart Trac was able to detect a very high temperature (240°F) on the housing of a brand new gearbox. This detection was immensely valuable as it not only prevented the failure of this brand new asset, it also prevented 36 hours of unplanned downtime, and a potential fire! The team was alerted immediately and they investigated the high temperature quickly. Thanks to the team being properly prepared, they had spare parts on hand to make the necessary changes, preventing the issue from escalating.



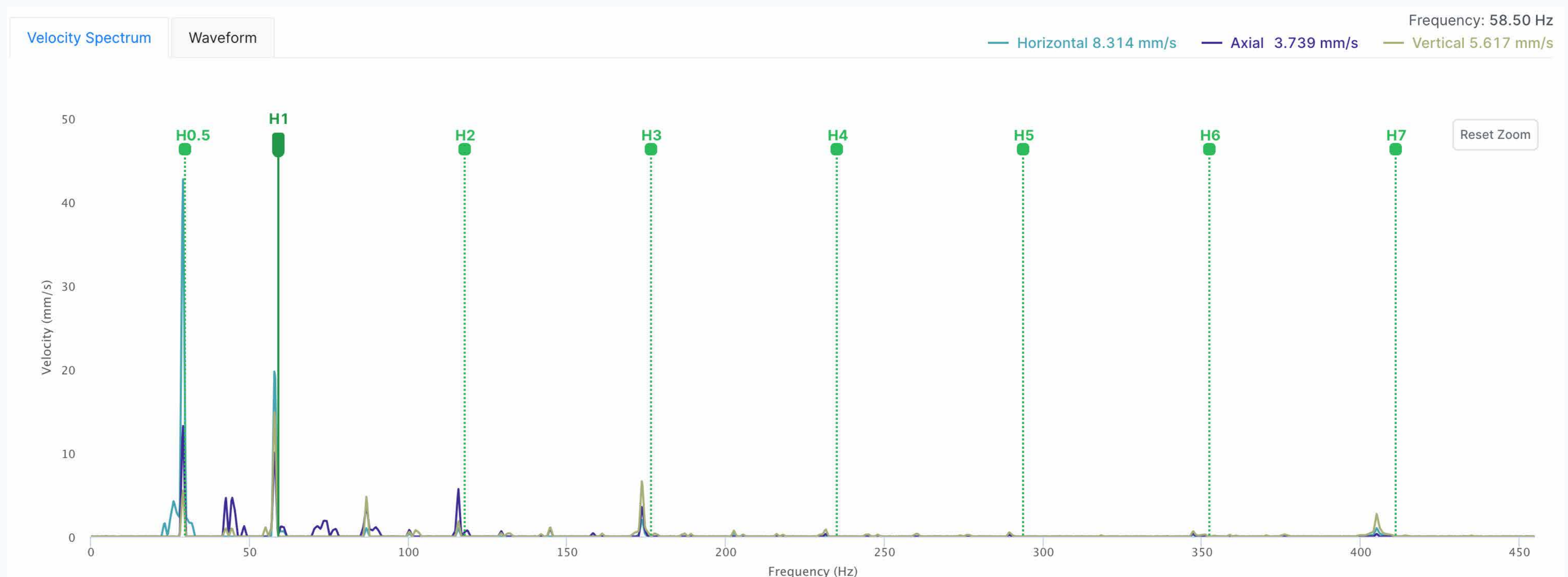


## Misalignment Identified by AI

Asset: Shavers  
Solution: Vibration Spectrum Analysis  
Saving: Asset Replacement Avoided

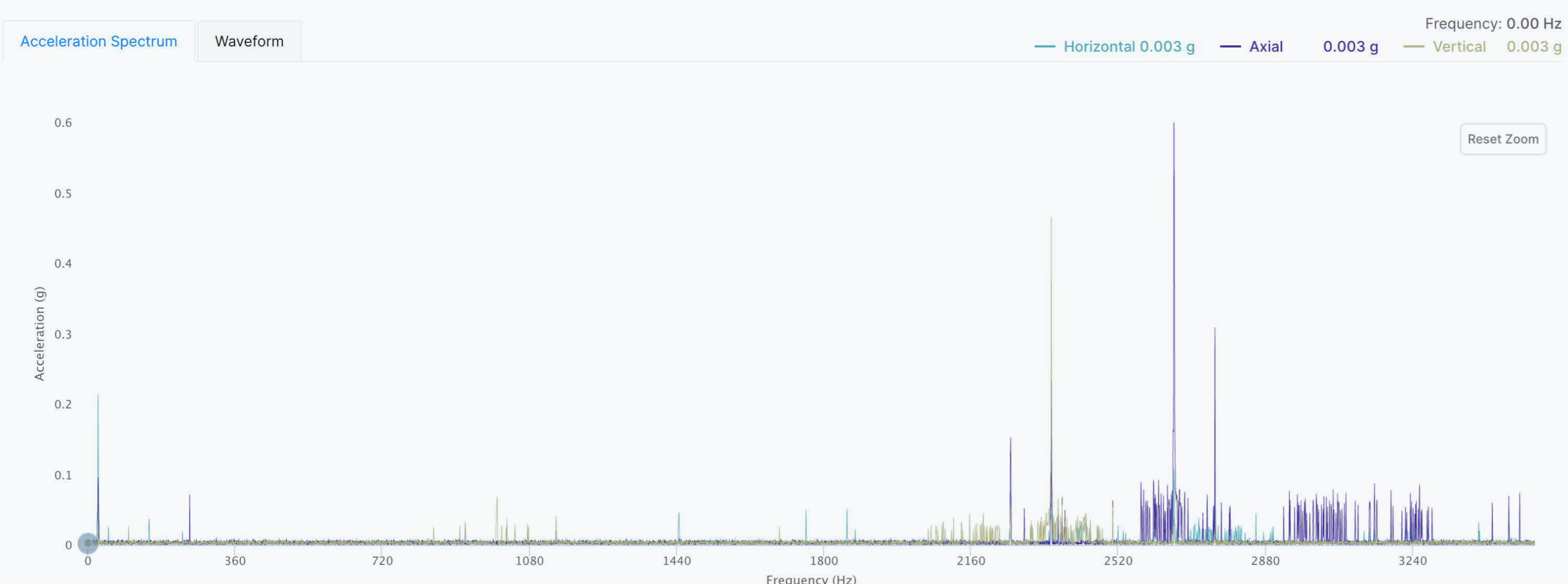
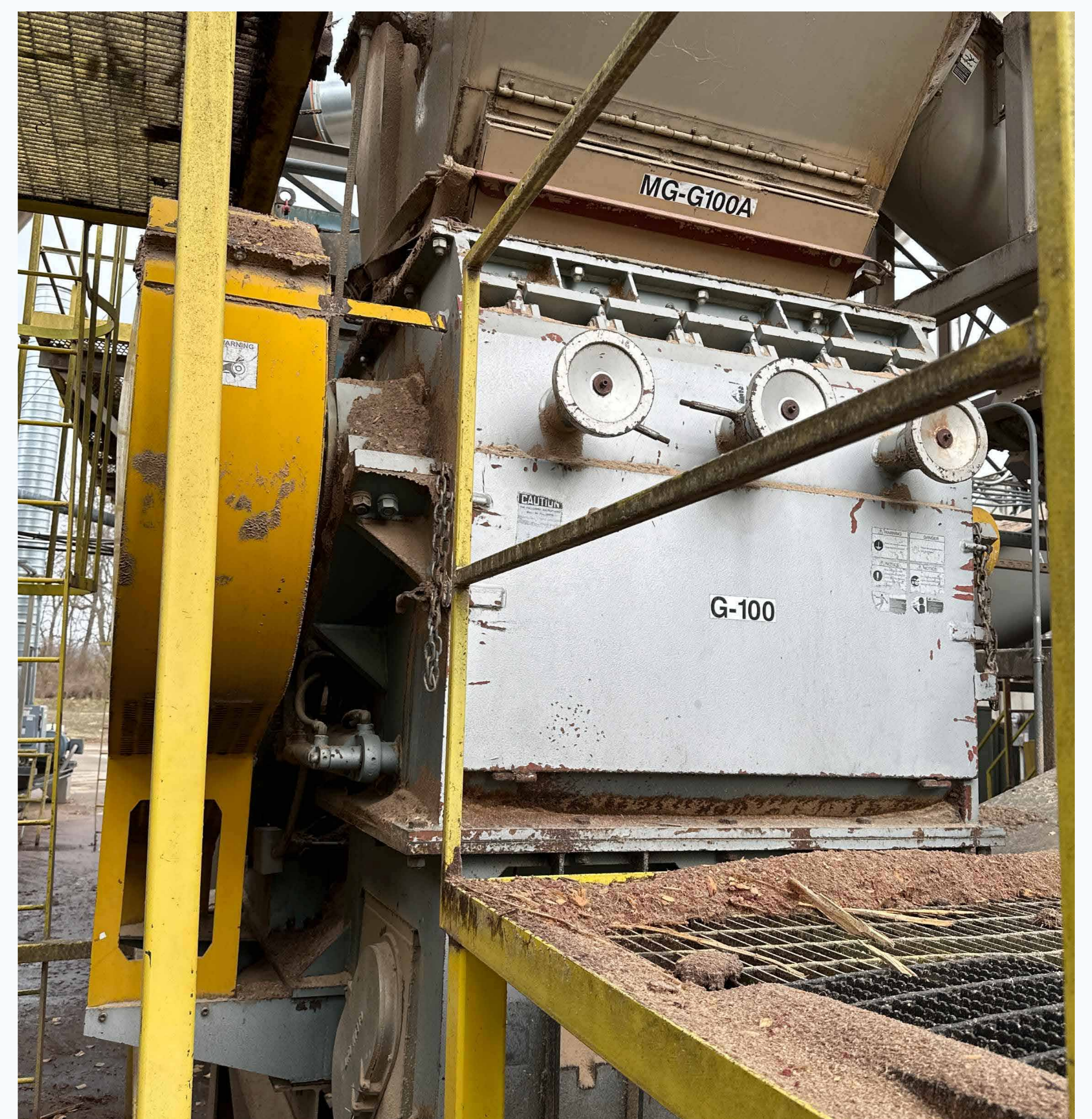
At AMERICAN WOOD FIBERS, a shaver exhibited signs of misalignment, which triggered a platform alert.

The maintenance team identified the fault as potentially severe, and sprang to action to investigate the shaver. The technicians discovered that the misalignment was due to a broken shaft. They worked to resolve the fault quickly, and prevent permanent damage to the shaver. This insight helped them avoid 16 hours of downtime!



## Lack of Lubrication Identified by AI

Asset: Auger Bearings  
Solution: Vibration Spectrum Analysis  
Saving: Unplanned Downtime Avoided



There are many bearings in AMERICAN WOOD FIBERS' operation, and Smart Trac was able to detect a Lubrication problem on a specific bearing. The platform noticed the acceleration was unusual, and prescribed lubrication to prevent an issue. This prescription was much needed, as it saved 4 hours of unexpected downtime! The asset was checked a week later and found to be in perfect operating condition.

Start Exploring TRACTIAN Condition-based Monitoring

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