Madix

RFgen

OVERVIEW

Successful manufacturer of retail displays improves inventory accuracy and implement real-time production monitoring with RFgen Mobile Foundations for SAP.

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the full case study

SNAPSHOT

INDUSTRY:
Manufacturing

ENVIRONMENT:
SAP

APPLICATIONS:
• Inventory Control

GOALS ACHIEVED

1 Enhanced Visibility.

2 Employee Utilization.

3 Easy Usage.

> " RFgen has eliminated waste in data collection and improved information flow complementing our Lean Manufacturing initiative, bringing us one step closer to a true 'perfect' plant. RFgen has provided transparency across the organization including efficiency, utilization, quality, and late order alerts. "
>
> - David Kelly, Business Analyst
>   Madix

THE CHALLENGE

Like any successful organization, the professionals at Madix set goals to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness. Last year, the entire upper management team set a "wildly important goal" to increase overall inventory accuracy in all three manufacturing facilities.

The Madix team would be responsible for achieving better inventory accuracy from the systems side. The right solution would need to work with the Madix SAP enterprise resource planning system. Employees would need to be able to update inventory information in real time from anywhere within the company's three massive manufacturing facilities.

SAP Support Manager Gary Jones recalls, "The whole company focused on achieving the goal of having more accurate inventory. To do it, we deployed wireless scanning technology in our warehouses and production facilities and implemented mobile data collection by RFgen."

THE SOLUTION

RFgen is a mobile and wireless data collection framework that helps Madix capture key information about inventory and production, eliminating paperwork throughout its manufacturing operation and improving information accuracy. As employees move material around the plant, they scan it quickly and the information is collected by RFgen and sent to SAP.

The Madix team selected RFgen because the company is a certified SAP partner and the solution met their key criteria at a lower total cost of ownership than other software options. The technical consultants at RFgen Software were able to meet very tight deployment deadlines to have the system up and running quickly. Gaining the ability to modify transactions in-house was an added bonus—all RFgen applications use drag and drop technology to quickly develop fully functioning mobile applications. Further, RFgen's embedded VBA/.NET scripting framework enables developers to step outside of the box and rapidly achieve professional grade results with only a small investment in training.

RFgen comes standard with prebuilt inventory, order management, purchasing, manufacturing, and plant maintenance transactions. Soon after implementing RFgen to improve inventory accuracy, it became evident that the solution could help Madix drive much greater efficiencies. Managers in the production facilities wanted status information for individual employees and jobs. Upper management requested real-time insight into operations as well.

> " Today, management and support is informed about any activity in any plant across the organization whether in the office, on the shop floor, or at home. "
>
> - David Kelly, Business Analyst Madix

"Our project actually evolved into something a lot bigger. Beyond inventory, we wanted to know where product was at any given time," said Jones.

Business analyst David Kelly described the process for monitoring production before RFgen: "We had something set up that we called the 'dog track'. It was a big magnetic board and our Shop Floor Controller had to physically walk around to each machine and collect paper tickets from the operators. As tasks were finished, the controller moved the magnet on the dog track."

"This created lots of problems. First, it was manual, so human error was a big factor. Sometimes machine operators didn't fill out their tickets. Lastly, the board was difficult to read. Obviously, none of the information was available to other parts of the business," he acknowledged.

Jones added, "Quantities on hand in the system during the day were never accurate because of the delay in time. With so much paperwork, there was no real accountability."

ABOUT MADIX

With three state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Texas and Alabama, Madix develops and produces display fixtures and racks for leading retailers within a range of industries including grocery stores, home improvement stores and general merchandise stores. Madix has maintained continuous growth and has expanded its facilities to include over 2.4-million square feet of manufacturing and storage space.