

Manufacturer Sets the Metal Industry Ablaze

Shoplogix™ Makes the Cut to Decrease Downtime by 25% and Increase Productivity by 37%



CASE STUDY

37%

INCREASE IN
PRODUCTIVITY

THE COMPANY

This manufacturer is an innovator in engineering solutions and thought-leadership in advanced product development and manufacturing world wide. The company's primary capabilities include metal forming and welding, laser cutting, assembly, research and development, program management and prototyping for industrial metal products.

THE GOAL

The company's principal goal was to increase productivity by maximizing operational efficiencies. For this manufacturer, it meant increasing visibility into real-time production performance, automating production tracking and data collection as well as simplifying the reporting process.

THE CHALLENGE

The key challenge for this manufacturer was that they had no accurate way to measure productivity and quantify downtime events. There were no reliable facts to act upon.

THE SOLUTION

The Basis for Efficiency - Automating Processes
Improving operational efficiency required that this manufacturer start by automating key processes - production tracking and data collection. Using Shoplogix's real-time performance management (RPM) solution, Plantnode® as a foundation for the company's continuous improvement initiatives, the automation process was complete within two weeks.

Visibility Turns Into Value

Information became available in real-time to operators, supervisors and management, improving performance visibility instantly. By eliminating manual tracking and recording, this manufacturer gained immediate access to accurate, reliable and complete information. Job specific parameters were set and contained within a barcode and scanned in by operators, allowing variances against estimates to be calculated in real-time. The company now had the ability to create meaningful reports broken down by machine, by job, by shift and by hour; a level of granularity that fails to exist in other

25%

DECREASE IN
DOWNTIME

Better Information. Better Decisions. Better Performance.

manufacturing systems today. Available online using a standard web browser, reporting was quick, easy and accessible from any of the company's many facilities.

Real-time Feedback: A Manufacturing Imperative

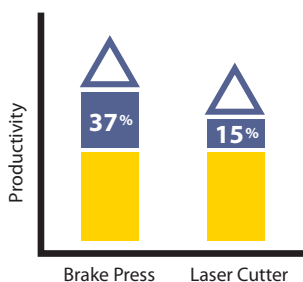
Improving visibility into production was critical. Real-time feedback to employees was imperative. Above every Plantnode enabled machine was an LED display board that provided immediate feedback specific to the job. The board was configured to message how long any given machine was running and how long it was stopped so employees became acutely aware of lost production time. By running a quick web-based report, the operator quickly understood the specific reasons for downtime, the frequency it occurred, and the duration of each occurrence. With this information, employees were able to take immediate action and impact production when it mattered.

RESULTS

Plantnode was installed on two types of machines, the laser cutter and the brake press. In a few short months the manufacturer saw dramatic increases in overall productivity. Based on the

Dramatic Increase in Productivity

Source: The Manufacturer 2008

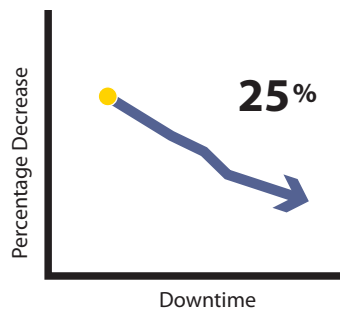


Productivity was increased by 37 percent on the brake press and 15 percent on the laser cutter.

percentage of time the machine was running versus idle, the productivity on the brake press jumped by 37 percent. During the same time period, the laser cutter showed a 15 percent improvement in productivity.

Average Decrease in Downtime

Source: The Manufacturer 2008



The Manufacturer improved efficiency during set up and reduced downtime by an average of 25 percent

Production time gained as a result of Plantnode was calculated at an average of 1 hour and 25 minutes per day. Over the course of a year, the company would gain an average of 7.5 weeks of additional production time.

Given the high rate of changeover, the Manufacturer accounted for a series of planned downtime events. What the company was surprised to learn the actual duration of these events and the frequency with which they occurred. Plantnode quickly revealed that machines were idle far more frequently and for much longer than expected. With this new insight, the company was able to improve efficiency during set up and reduce downtime by an average of 25 percent. As a result, the number of runtime hours was increased by 11 percent.

The ease of installation and the speed at which the Manufacturer realized value was paramount to the success of the implementation. Payback on the laser cutter was 103 days and the 196 days on the brake press - within 4.9 months of purchase, the Plantnode solution had paid for itself.

The Beauty of Payback

Source: The Manufacturer 2008

4.9
MONTHS
payback

Rapid time-to-value yielded a payback of 103 days on the laser cutter and 196 days on the brake press. The Plantnode solution paid for itself within 4.9 months of purchase.

CONCLUSION

Shoplogix gave this company the technology and the tools to improve their manufacturing efficiency and helped the organization become more competitive in the face of increasing global pressures. Efficiencies were realized across the board not only on the plant floor but also on the estimating and scheduling side of the equation. Accurate, timely information led to better job costing and increased flexibility in production scheduling. The Shoplogix Plantnode solution lowered the company's total cost of production and allowed the manufacturer to establish new standards and make solid decisions based on reliable, accurate and complete information. The net result - better information, better decisions, better performance.

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