

# Case Study

## Piolax



### Industry

Manufacturing - Plastic fasteners for car manufacturing

### Number of employees

60 +

### Solution & services

- K3 SYSPRO ERP
- Advanced Planning and Scheduling (APS)

### The challenge

- Growing business with lack of functionality in current solution
- Company's high speed, high turnover make-to-stock operation
- Tight margins so cost control is essential
- Spreadsheets used for job costing
- Time consuming to update a number of systems and potential for data entry errors

### The benefits

- Full visibility of shopfloor activities
- Ability to interrogate this using Crystal Reporting Services
- Ability to see if a job is ahead of schedule or if it is lagging. This allows us to react immediately and ensures efficiency
- Better management information and ability to track production progress as well as the total traceability the system provides



**Piolax benefits from cutting edge SYSPRO solution that incorporates APS functionality and SFDC**



Piolax implemented SYSPRO ERP v6.10 with Advanced Planning and Scheduling (APS) in 2007, giving Piolax full visibility of its production processes, accessible management information and a platform for its expanding business. The innovative tailored solution incorporated shopfloor data capture (SFDC) using mobile devices to assist with managing and monitoring production progress.

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Piolax operates in a fast turnaround, high throughput make-to-stock environment. To help it manage a slick operation it turned to NexSys for a tailored technological solution that would underpin its business. This would replace Piolax's legacy Sage CS/3 that it had outgrown and no longer provided the power or functionality to support it.

NexSys responded with a state-of-the-art SYSPRO enterprise resource planning (ERP) system configured to Piolax's exact requirements. This is integrated with SYSPRO APS Advanced Progress Tracking module and used with the APS Mobile module, to deliver a turnkey solution that would help manage the company's high speed, high turnover make-to-stock operation.

SYSPRO runs on two Dell PowerEdge servers running Windows 2003 Server and SQL 2005. The system went live in July 2007 giving Piolax UK operation full visibility of its production processes. This provides readily accessible management information and a platform for its expanding business.

The Piolax installation is cutting edge. It has been specifically designed to support a streamlined manufacturing and supply process. Customers place orders with the Sales and Distribution division are transferred overnight to Manufacturing. Some of these are EDI orders while others are entered manually into the system. The order triggers the MRP function to create the demand.



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SYSPRO transmits this to the APS module which interrogates data and produces the production plan. From here a works order is generated that contains all the production information and barcode labels for the items.

“These is no guesswork with SYSPRO. We work from accurate information and this means our processes are managed rigorously. We have complete visibility of production and traceability via SYSPRO and are able to make crucial manufacturing management decisions quickly,” says Geoff Youds, Plant Manager at Piolax.

The system incorporates many interesting features including mobile computing for shopfloor data capture and communication. This keeps SYSPRO updated by logging exactly what is happening on the shopfloor. Using wireless hand-held computers with integrated laser scanners, operators simply scan the instruction on the works orders for the various operations they must perform for each job.

They do this as they start and finish each stage of production. The scanned information is transmitted back to the system verifying each stage. This is displayed on large screens and utilises 'traffic lights' to indicate the exact status for each plastic moulding machine. For example, as soon as a job is complete the machine operator scans the barcode works order to register that the task is finished. Should there be a production issue such as a machine breakdown the operator also scans a barcode. This automatically signals a 'stop' and registers a red traffic light on the screen which signals the maintenance team into action to fix the machine.

NexSys has provided a highly developed solution that gives us full visibility of shopfloor activities. We are already benefiting from better management

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information and ability to track production progress as well as the total traceability the system provides,” says Youds.

“Being able to monitor progress on screen using the large ‘plasmas’ or any PC is very useful for management and shopfloor staff. This is of great benefit because the screens show the status of each machine, the jobs they are performing and the next

set of jobs coming down the line. The screens also display job progress in Gantt chart format which gives a rapid visual account of job cycle times. We can instantly see if a job is ahead of schedule or if it is lagging. This allows us to react immediately and ensures efficiency.

“We are pleased with the SYSPRO solution and it has generated a lot of interest from other Piolax sites around the world. In particular the quality of the information the system provides and the ability to interrogate this using Crystal Reporting Services is creating a stir. NexSys undoubtedly has listened to what we needed and responded well to our requirements,” he concludes.

## About NexSys

NexSys is a SYSPRO elite partner, with 40+ years’ experience of delivering Innovative ERP+ solutions to manufacturers and distributors throughout the UK. NexSys technologies grant organisations of all sizes maximum visibility over business-critical information, enabling decisions to be made based on accurate, reliable, real-time insight. The company provides solutions that enable agility, innovation, and competitive edge. As part of the global K3 group, NexSys has specialists that have remained loyal to the business for more than a decade. It provides project management, software development, consultancy, support and training to customers to help them realise maximum ROI.