

INVESTING IN ERP IS CRITICAL

Post Brexit industry needs to continue investing in the latest technology and Paul Bennett, managing director of **Fascia Graphics** explains the benefits of installing an ERP system

Despite all the scaremongering connected to Brexit, the CBI reported in November that the UK's manufacturing sector has enjoyed strong order books throughout 2016. However, it said that the industry needs to continue to invest in the latest technology to adapt to the fastest rise in factory gate prices for two years due to the fall in the value of the pound.

Backing this up was a major survey released by the EEF. Publishing their Q4 Manufacturing Outlook survey and revised economic forecasts, the manufacturer's organisation pointed to early signs that the sector is now seeing opportunities from a resilient UK market and a brightening in export prospects as a result of Brexit. This report says that better conditions are spurring a rebound in recruitment intentions and a turnaround in investment by the manufacturing sector to fulfil customer requirements and secure productivity gains.

We believe in continuous improvement as a key to our success and as a result recently invested in a UV flatbed printer and MIETrak Pro ERP system. The new print line will ensure that we remain at the forefront of the market for high quality, fast-turnaround membrane keypads and graphic overlays often used for pre-production, trade shows and exhibitions.

However, to fully capitalise on this investment we needed a front and back-end system that would help us respond to customer requests more quickly, simplify front and back office management while improving visibility across every aspect of our operations. The MIETrak Pro ERP system has allowed our business to consolidate five software packages into a



single system, providing enhanced visibility and control of all aspects of functions by seamlessly integrating sales, accounts, production planning, purchasing, production, HR and QA.

UNRIVALLED PRODUCTION PLANNING VISIBILITY

Instead of having data distributed throughout several separate databases all information is now located in a single location. Data is kept consistent and up-to-date. The system has eliminated repetitive processes and greatly reduced the need to manually enter information.

Unrivalled production planning visibility enable our business to load and plan to capacity; ensuring products are turned around efficiently. The MIETrak Pro records all aspects of material and labour usage, automatically analysing past manufacturing data to provide quotations that are more accurate (and very often competitive) and more precise production

Stock control and purchasing has been transformed with the ability to see the requirements for hours, days or weeks

times for future work. Furthermore, we have been able to raise the bar of our incredibly high quality customer service using the system. Sales and customer service staff can now interact more quickly and effectively with customers as they now have more accurate access to customers' information and history.

There will be a more detailed analysis of Fascia's lean manufacturing programme with overall equipment effectiveness (OEE) and bottle-neck analysis built in as standard. The MIETrak Pro has transformed our stock control and purchasing with the ability to see the requirements for the coming hours, days or weeks. This enables the business to automatically call-in material when needed without having to hold stock for longer than required and risk damaging or exceeding shelf-life. For suppliers there is the advantage of improved information on upcoming requirements.

When it comes to reporting, the new system has made it more customisable, allowing us to respond to complex data requests with ease.

Users can run their own reports without relying on help from IT, cutting time and cost. Having market leading front and back end systems are critical to future success and our latest investments have ensured the service we offer to our customers remains the very best in the industry; a service we need to consistently offer to capitalise on all the benefits of operating in a post Brexit world.

Fascia Graphics

T: 01249 460606

www.mie-solutions.co.uk

