SYSCON PlantStar

From the Shop Floor to the Sales Department, McPherson Plastics Benefits from Production Control and Accurate Data

When the PlantStar system was installed in 1993, the objective was production control. McPherson Plastics quickly achieved their goal and has continued to take advantage of the program.

Objectives

McPherson Plastics is a custom injection molding company in Michigan that specializes in high-precision products and tooling designs for automotive, medical, and electronic industries. They purchased the Panorama® monitoring system by PlantStar in 1993 for their 16 machines and quickly began to gain control over their production cycles. For example, they immediately identified and repaired the sticking valves that were causing poor machine efficiency and scrap. In 1995, when they added 16 machines, the PlantStar system helped manage this growth. McPherson Plastics met customer schedules and achieved 88% uptime while moving equipment and testing new molds.

Solutions and Results

Over the years, the McPherson Plastics' team has taken advantage of Panorama® to realize added benefits, including:

- In addition to alerting for machine downtime, the Voice Output Paging feature is used as a helpful reminder tool. Supervisors use the paging system to let relief machine operators know they need to get to their machines before the shift change.

- Stronger customer relationships. The McPherson Plastics' staff shares accurate and easy-to-understand data with customers so they can see the true costs of their production runs. Production data also helps the sales department accurately quote and get new jobs—prospective customers appreciate that McPherson Plastics is using technology to make the company more quality conscious, more productive, and more price competitive.

- Confidence to pursue new markets. "With the ability to deeply analyze and fully understand our molding costs and production performance, we are highly confident when approaching new customers and even whole new markets. We can show in great detail what it takes to bring a new product to market. New customers gain confidence in us immediately when they see real-world data to support our pricing and recommended launch strategy. The ability to diversify and expand our client base is a tremendous asset," said Tom Haydon, Engineering Manager at McPherson Plastics.

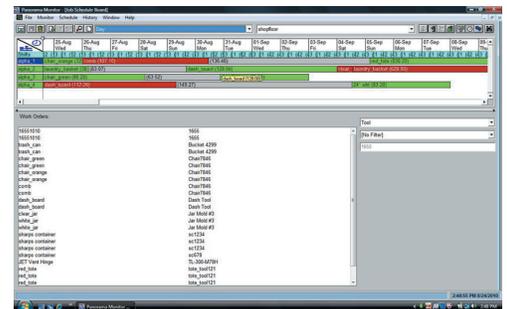## SYSCON-PlantStar Applications

- Panorama® software with full traceability functions including multi-operational processing and data collection. Key attributes are the historian and online process journaling features. Panorama provides enhanced real-time production scheduling and reporting.

- SYSCON-PlantStar's Data Collection Modules (DCM) with web-enabled, industrial-grade touch screens and flexible configurations. State-of-the-art processors provide rapid data processing and communication. The DCM units provide extended shop floor redundancy and data protection in case of power or network failure.

- IQMS ERP system integration. In addition to IQMS, PlantStar's Snapshot®, Portrait® and Panorama® programs integrate with the following ERP/MRP packages: Baan, BPICS, DTR, JD Edwards, Mapics, Oracle, QAD, and SAP.
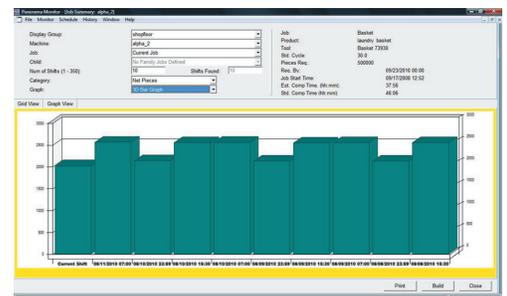
Results

- Maintained 88% uptime and met customer schedules during major equipment expansion
- Stronger customer relationships
- Confidence to pursue new markets

The plant floor at McPherson Plastics

Panorama's Job Schedule Board Screenshot

Panorama's Job Summary Screenshot

SYSCON-PlantStar
1108 South High Street, South Bend, Indiana 46601
(574)232-3900 • info@plantstar.org • www.plantstar.org