Amcor Rigid Plastics

Manufacturing Proof to Performance

As a plastics manufacturer for some of the most popular brands in the food, beverage, and pharmaceutical industries, Amcor Rigid Plastics delivered growth according to plan, but a growing challenge was reaching a critical stage. The Manufacturing Execution System (MES) that helped support the company growth was a legacy system now nearing end-of-life support. The optimizations and enhancements to keep the same requirements and strict performance benchmarks across 49 plants, 5 countries and 2 distinct business units required costly and time-consuming changes.

Packaged for Success

Amcor wasn't looking for new functionality – in fact, the new system needed to keep pace with production with minimal interruptions and little to no retraining for plant personnel upon implementation. Essentially, the new system needed the same usability and functionality, but with the ability to grow with the company.

With these challenging requirements, Amcor turned to Ciber because of our experience in the manufacturing industry, specifically with SAP MII solutions. The first phase included a short, five week proof of concept that illustrated how Ciber

could meet the performance requirements with our templates, reusable code, and project framework for this unique SAP MII solution. The proof of concept objectives included the following:

- Minimize impact to operators and supervisors
- Illustrate growth and sustainability of SAP MII-based solution
- Exhibit agility and speed of development with the SAP MII platform
- Demonstrate ability of SAP MII to replicate current platform functionality

Integrate Multi-Technology Solution

After a successful proof of concept, phase two included the full MES replacement, including application development, enterprise integration, and staffing. The proof of concept was important not just to show that Ciber could manage the unique requirements of the project, but also because the solution ultimately involved the implementation and integration of a variety of software technologies. SAP MII 14.0 software was the basis for the transactional layer and web-based user interface and was integrated with an Oracle database and Wavelink Velocity industrial browser for handheld scanner acceleration.

Clearing the Way for Growth

Ciber successfully designed, built and implemented the new MES solution on schedule and 500 hours under budget - a fantastic achievement to help Amcor achieve the benefits of a modern platform for less than expected.

The biggest benefit for Amcor is they now trust that their MES solution will grow with the business. With the modern MII platform, future optimizations and enhancements will be much easier. Although few user experience improvements were applied, the SAP MII-based application layer and HTML5 web-based user interface layer will be able to support many user experience and functional improvements in the future.

The new system no longer needed to balance the needs for growth against the costs of changes to the software. The application deployed across all plants, countries and business units with no modifications to the software template, meaning that any future changes are applied globally are standardized across the enterprise.

Because few changes were made to the user experience at roll-out, little to no training was needed for the cutover to the new system. After a few "Train the Trainer" sessions for Supervisors and Leads, only a short system demonstration

was needed for plant personnel. In some cases, changes to the user experience generated a positive response, such as the simplification of the navigation into a single application approach.

The performance of the new system met the initial criteria of matching requirements and performance benchmarks for the company, including creating similar and enhanced reports and transactions. Dashboards summarize detail for management and provide a single view that can provide detail with simple clicks of the mouse.

"The whole Ciber team did a great job in partnering with Amcor to develop and rollout our pilot SAP MII MES solution. Your remarkable efforts in designing and building an MES solution from the ground up has not gone unnoticed. All are very pleased with the solution established, performance achieved, time frame realized, and cost effective manner in which this was accomplished."

(David Lanich, Amcor Rigid Plastics Mgr, Manufacturing Execution System)

Keep Pace With Growth

With the cost and time savings from completing the rollout early and the success of the project, Amcor is making plans to complete additional rollouts and optimizations with Ciber. These ongoing improvements over time will help Amcor continue to position themselves as a plastics manufacturing leader.

About Ciber

Ciber is a global IT consulting company with approximately 6,000 employees in North America, Europe and Asia/Pacific. Ciber partners with organizations to develop technology strategies and solutions that deliver tangible business value. Founded in 1974, the company trades on the New York Stock Exchange (CBR). For more information, visit www.Ciber.com.