

Fast React Systems - Planning Software Solutions

TATA Increase Delivery Performance by Adopting the FastReact Approach to Planning

The Company

Established in 1985, TATA has grown to be one of the largest belt manufacturers in the world today. Based in Guatemala, with an annual capacity of over 8 million units per year, TATA produce all types of belts and have a global customer base that includes Levi's, Dickies, Target, Fossil and Relic brands plus many wholesale clients.

In addition to the high capacity factory, allowing them to produce very large numbers of high quality leather belts, TATA's growth can also be attributed to their convenient geographical location, a highly educated and trained workforce, quick, duty-free deliveries, combined with a very forward-thinking attitude and willingness to invest in new ideas and technologies.

The Challenges

Having invested significantly in state of the art Italian machinery, TATA had also implemented an ERP system followed by the introduction of lean manufacturing principles within the business. However, with the company continuing to grow and competition continuing to increase, TATA were keen to improve efficiency even further by gaining clearer visibility of the entire production process. TATA undertook extensive market research to find a solutions provider that could provide the functionality they required whilst offering extensive industry knowledge and experience.

The Solution

The FastReact Evolution planning system was selected to give increased visibility of both the production process and the pre-production critical path events. The system has ensured that there is clear visibility of order status. The planning process takes into account customer required dates, material availability, capacity restrictions and also enables any critical path issues to be considered (e.g. sample approvals).

FastReact has allowed TATA to reduce its lead times by understanding their available capacity and maximising production efficiency. In addition, the use of the FastReact critical path enables TATA to quickly identify any potential problems, thus empowering them to take corrective actions before problems arise. *"FastReact has greatly increased our visibility so that now, should a delay occur anywhere in our supply chain, we can plan around the problem and create the most effective production schedule with just a few drags and drops"* says Rodrigo Toledo, Director of TATA.

If a production line is running below capacity, this is quickly evident and orders can be easily moved from one line to another to balance the workload and increase production efficiency.

The Conclusion

Increased production efficiency has enabled TATA to reduce its workforce by around 20 percent. In addition, the FastReact KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) have allowed TATA to accurately measure and hence further improve On Time Delivery Performance (OTDP). Effective performance monitoring is proving to be the catalyst to truly maximise efficiency, working alongside and complimenting the lean manufacturing practices.

"We pride ourselves on being able to provide our customers with on-time deliveries, competitive pricing, attention to detail and outstanding service levels. FastReact has played a significant role in allowing us to achieve this and to stay ahead in our game. Since the implementation of FastReact, efficiency has measurably improved. We have reduced our lead times, and we have reduced work in progress by more than \$100,000 in 6 months. This is due to clear visibility of what is happening on the factory floor, thus allowing orders to be fulfilled in the most timely and cost-effective manner" says Toledo. *"We have also virtually eradicated late deliveries"*.



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Rodrigo Toledo, Director



www.tata.com.gt

To find out more about how Fast React Systems can help your business, contact:

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What Our Customers Say About FastReact

Quantum (UK)

"FastReact provides improved visibility, flexibility and responsiveness, support the decision making process and enable us to generate achievable plans".

Carl Pate, Finance Director

Fogarty (UK)

"Direct, operational cost savings include an immediate £80K Sterling per annum saving, in addition to significant reductions in stock levels. Assisted by FastReact the planning team are now able to challenge stock policies and forward requirements. Further reductions are anticipated in the coming months."

Stewart MacDonald, Managing Director

Slimma (UK)

"We have been a satisfied user of FastReact for a number of years. It has enabled us to remain competitive in our very difficult market. The new highly visual system will build on the firm foundation that we have created in our business. It will enable us to work closer with our suppliers and react quickly to our customer requirements".

Chris Heath, Director

Dewhirst (UK)

"FastReact has enabled the closer coordination of functions within the business and this has facilitated a better materials planning process. This has directly resulted in the stockholding on materials being reduced by 40-50% (25-30 days stockholding down to an average of 15 days), at the same time as improving the raw material availability to the production floor. FastReact was surprisingly easy to install, and we have been very impressed with robustness and functionality provided by the software. Given the FastReact pedigree we expected a good planning system, but the flexibility and control provided by the FastReact Critical Path system was an unexpected bonus."

Glen Walker, Finance Director

Crystal Group (Hong Kong)

"By selecting FastReact to work with our SAP business system and GPro shop-floor system, we have selected the Best of Breed applications to work together to provide the total solution for all our business needs. FastReact provides a highly visual, flexible and interactive means of manipulating all the essential planning elements of capacity, raw materials availability and critical path, in a single integrated solution."

Mr. Sherman Lau, President of Elegance Industrial Company Limited

Australian Country Spinners (Australia)

"Overall, the company has achieved greater flexibility and speed of response. Successful order completion against target in 2004 were 10% up on 2003. In the areas where the use of FastReact is most focussed, from the Winding department through the Dyehouse and the Finishing area, lead times and work in progress levels have reduced by over 30% year on year."

Ian Brimblecombe, Manufacturing Services Manager

LT Karle (India)

"FastReact typically quotes a ROI of under one year. However, considering our monthly wage bill, a 2% improvement of our monthly efficiency (by just improving our planning) can provide a ROI under 3-4 months"

Gokal Chittaranjan, Chief Executive—Manufacturing

Integra Apparels and Textiles (India)

"We find that the planning board is the most used feature at our facility since it enables us to quickly and accurately plan and re-plan processes, besides providing a fantastic bird's eye view of all orders simultaneously."

"We expected payback in 18 months time and we are on course to better that."

Krishna Kumar, Chief Executive Officer

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