

Fast React Systems - Planning & Sourcing Solutions for the Apparel, Textile & Footwear Industries



Crystal Group Adopts FastReact

The Company

Hong Kong based Crystal Group is one of Asia's largest garment manufacturers producing a full range of products from sweaters, to cotton knits, woven and intimate garments.

Crystal Group employs about 30,000 people and has its own manufacturing facilities in 6 locations. The Group produces over 180 million pieces of garments per annum for world-renowned fashion brands and with annual sales over US \$800 million in Year 2005.

The Challenges

"We face both external market challenges and internal systems challenges", says Mr. Kenneth Lo - Chief Executive Officer of Crystal Group. "Externally, our Customers strive for speed, quality and increased numbers of quick response orders, with reduced production lead-times and order lot sizes. Internally, a lack of integrated Production Planning and Control tools has caused us, until now, to rely heavily on inefficient spreadsheet and paper-based methods for order projection and planning processes".

The Solution

This combination of internal opportunities for improvement and strong market need, caused Crystal to undertake a prudent evaluation in the market and finally to select FastReact as their Production Planning & Control solution to integrate at the front-end with their SAP ERP System and with GPro shop-floor control system at the back. *"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,"* says Mr. Sherman Lau, President of Elegance Industrial Company Limited. *"The project started in August 2006 and piloted in the Cotton Knit Division (Elegance Industrial Company Limited). By adding FastReact to our existing systems, we intend to be second to none as far as any manufacturer anywhere in the world to meet reduced lead times, whilst ensuring profitability and growth",* says Mr. Sherman Lau.

The Conclusion

Simon Gibson, Managing Director of Fast React Asia comments *"In the modern Apparel environment, improved visibility, coordination and flexibility are essential. High quality, industry specific solutions can help Apparel manufacturers to 'rise to the lead time challenge' and to respond much more effectively. As specialist providers only to the Garment industry and related sectors, our ongoing, industry specific investment in FastReact ensures that our solutions evolve continuously to meet the ever changing needs of the industry. We are delighted to work with Crystal Group and look forward to identifying real business benefits through this exciting project."*



Mr. Kenneth Lo - Chief Executive Officer - Crystal Group



Cima Factory - DongGuan ChanPing



Mr. Sherman Lau - President of Elegance Industrial Company Ltd.

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, Logistics 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

VT Garment Co. Ltd (Thailand)

"We selected FastReact as it met all our requirements for a powerful planning tool, providing a garment industry specific solution that addressed and integrated the key planning areas of factory capacity and critical path not covered by our ERP business system. (FastReact) has enabled us to make real improvements in On Time Delivery and reductions in air freight. I would have no hesitation to recommend FastReact to other factories. If used correctly they should get a return on investment within 12 months."

Khun Orasri Lotharukpong, Deputy Managing Director

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 focused, 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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