



Bangladesh : KDS Garment implements Fastreact Plus

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Salim Rahman,
Group Director

The Company KDS Garment Industries Ltd, based in Chittagong, is one of Bangladesh's leading garment exporters, currently producing 20 million pieces per year. The company employs 7000 workers and supplies knit / woven casual wear to leading brands such as AMC Target, Walmart, George, K Mart, Sears, Charming Shoppe etc.

KDS are enjoying the success shared by many of their peers in the booming post quota economy. However, they are fully aware that booms can be short-lived and the reality is that their ongoing success is dependant on continuous improvement and innovation.

KDS have been faced with multiple challenges of needing to rapidly increase available capacity, reduce lead times and improve productivity whilst still remaining in control of the business and satisfying their customers ever more challenging demands.

The Challenges - Mr. Prashant Mithare, General Manager of Integrated Planning & Operations comments: "Though we had an established plan on spread sheets etc., it was not so user friendly and to manage the plan was extremely difficult leading to a lot of fire fighting. We were looking for a system to capture the critical events and to have something which will give the glimpse of the whole plan in one window."

"When we saw the demo of the Fastreact system, one most prominent thing we noticed was that, unlike other (planning modules in) ERP systems, this is specifically made for production planning & scheduling (for the apparel industry). The planning board is very easy to read, understand and manage. With the Fastreact we don't need computer experts to do the scheduling, just someone who follows basic planning disciplines."

The Solution

Mr. Mithare commented on the implementation process "It was very user friendly.... it took us two days to create the masters and then by the next hour it was in operation and we were online with Fastreact."

The Conclusion

Mr. Mithare explains the benefits to date. "The main operational benefit is that one can easily see the whole picture of the plan on one screen which makes it easy to plan so as to reduce the product changes / set up time thus helping the company to improve efficiency by reducing downtime. The critical path helps in keeping track of the critical events to see and tackle issues before they come as a surprise!"

Mr. Salim Rahman, Group Director Comments: "In today's context, the speed to market is extremely important. With delivery lead time & margins, shrinking day by day, the manufacturing processes need to operate at the highest possible efficiency level."

Fastreact Asia's MD, Simon Gibson, comments "In the new garment powerhouse countries such as India & Bangladesh, despite the plentiful supply of low cost labour, the progressive manufacturers realise that it is essential they use proven apparel specific solutions rather than making do with manual tools."

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