



**AUTOMATE (AND INNOVATE) PEOPLE
PROCESSES ON YOUR SHOP FLOOR TO
ACHIEVE MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE**



In the age of complex production and supply chain environments, manufacturers are constantly looking for new ways to accelerate productivity, increase operational output, and achieve sustainable long-term excellence in manufacturing. While there is no “magic bullet” to achieve manufacturing excellence, innovation can pave the road to excellence, and can be derived from various parts of an organization.

If the intention of a manufacturing business is to innovate and explore alternative designs or solutions in the pursuit of excellence, a key component in this practice is automation. Applying automation to the tenets of people, processes and technology leads to operational efficiency. And in the manufacturing world, maximizing efficiency begins with the improving productivity on the shop floor.

Manufacturers have a “real opportunity” to embrace disruptive changes in this global economy. After all, it takes money to make money, and investing in these three pillars is a foolproof way to boost your shop floor productivity and sustainability—it’s all about working smarter, not harder.

Investing in your business operations should not be a scary notion, but rather, an approach that is embraced by shop floor staff—all the way up to top floor management.

Manufacturers that pursue shop floor automation (*and innovation*) are more likely to increase production volume, reduce costs, and improve quality of delivering goods, in order to meet customer expectations. Automating shop floor processes and establishing greater visibility into the productivity of plant operations can provide companies with a substantial advantage over their competitors.

This solution sheet outlines how automating people processes on the shop floor can help improve shop floor productivity. It will highlight what leading shop floor automation looks like, and what manufacturers must consider first, as they strive for excellence—in an increasingly competitive business environment.

HOW AUTOMATING PEOPLE PROCESSES CAN IMPROVE SHOP FLOOR PRODUCTIVITY



Automating people processes on the shop floor provides manufacturing leaders with a solid foundation for efficient data collection and process monitoring. Shop floor employees and business leaders are able to spend less time on administrative and/or manual tasks, and focus more of their attention on meaningful activities designed to drive topline business goals and strategy.

There are several compelling drivers for manufacturing leaders, when considering automating people processes on the shop floor, including:



Improved data collection and data accuracy: Manual data collection and data-entry processes are prone to human error. Automating data collection provides manufacturers with a mechanism to ensure accurate information, and reduces time delays in accessing it.



Improved profitability: By accurately capturing job costing data, manufacturing leaders are able to ensure that products are priced to achieve the correct profit margin, and that revenue leakage is minimized.



Improved employee productivity: Line workers spend less time manually recording and entering data. Therefore, each employee can spend more time on activities that accelerates production, and adds to the bottom line of the business.



Decreased operating costs: By eliminating redundant processes and providing better visibility into inventory levels and overhead costs, automation can provide significant cost-savings. As a bonus, automation also helps reduce a company's environmental footprint by eliminating unnecessary printing and decreasing energy costs.



Improved resource management: By automating data collection, shop floor managers are able to get real-time insights into where resources are most needed on their shop floor, and which areas resources can be pulled from—in order to meet increased demand.

WHAT DOES AUTOMATING PEOPLE PROCESSES ON THE SHOP FLOOR LOOK LIKE?



Shop floor automation continues to develop at a rapid rate. With the rise of devices and factory equipment that use Internet connectivity to collect, monitor, exchange, analyze, and implement information to meet business needs through intelligent and automated actions, manufacturers have a wide range of options when it comes to deciding “how and what” to automate on the shop floor. Areas of automation may include, but are not limited to:



Job scheduling and allocation:

Automating the scheduling, planning, and assignment of tasks to line workers



Procurement: Automating decision-

making around procurement within different levels of the supply chain, using pre-determined order criteria



Performance: Automating performance tracking such as cycle times and order-to-delivery times



Inventory management: Accessing real-time data for effective inventory management automation, including return process management and ‘Just-in-Time’ inventory management



Purchasing: Automating purchase orders based on pre-determined thresholds, and order criteria



Customer experience: Automating the customer experience, including the ability to place orders and pay for them online

GETTING STARTED WITH PEOPLE PROCESS AUTOMATION: A FIVE STEP PLAN



Manufacturing leaders do not need to completely overhaul all their processes at once, in order to experience the benefits of shop floor automation. Shop floor managers can employ the following five-step plan, in order to implement automation in their organization using existing infrastructure, technology, and systems.

1.



Identify: Operations managers must work with shop floor employees to analyze and identify manual processes that can be automated—within a short time-frame. This includes identifying current automations, and any opportunities for improvement.

2.



Test: Once a list of potential automation targets has been developed, shop floor managers must test the automation of these functions, in a fully-development environment. The results of these tests should help revise automated processes, with goals and targets in mind.

3.



Implement: Shop floor managers can use test results to prioritize areas for automation—bearing in mind cost, frequency, and value. As part of this step, they will define processes, changes, and possible improvements.

4.



Engage: By including line workers in each of the automation planning, testing and implementation phases, shop floor staff are kept top-of-mind when designing automated processes that will impact their daily work lives. Management teams, suppliers, and vendors should also be informed of automation changes, and how they will be impacted.

5.



Measure and Evaluate: Identify benchmarks for success in each area of automation, to better help determine what data should be collected, and how it should be measured to drive continuous improvements.

ABOUT SYSPRO



SYSPRO software is an award-winning, best-of-breed Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software solution for cost-effective on-premise and cloud-based utilization.

Industry analysts rank SYSPRO software among the finest, best-in-class enterprise-resource planning solutions in the world. SYSPRO software's powerful features, simplicity of use, scalability, information visibility, analytic/reporting capabilities, business process and rapid deployment methodology are unmatched in its sector.

SYSPRO, formed in 1978, has earned the trust of thousands of companies globally. SYSPRO's ability to grow with its customers and its adherence to developing technology, based on the needs of customers, is why SYSPRO enjoys one of the highest customer retention rates in the industry.



NEXT STEPS:

If you want to learn how SYSPRO can help your business benefit from automating (and innovating) people processes on your shop floor to achieve manufacturing excellence, contact us today at info@ca.syspro.com or +1 (888) 259-6666.