



Epicor Success Story

Plano Molding

Uses Epicor Mattec MES To Tackle Plant Efficiency

Company Facts

- ▶ Location: Mendota and Sandwich, Illinois
- ▶ Industry: Injection Molding Manufacturer
- ▶ Website: www.planomolding.com



Success Highlights

Challenges

- ▶ Traditional paper-based data collection was inefficient, cumbersome, and time-consuming

Solution

- ▶ Epicor® Mattec MES

Benefits

- ▶ Drove bottom-line growth with real-time shop floor insights
- ▶ Achieved \$700,000 savings in scrap improvements
- ▶ Enabled real-time look at production performance—OEE, scrap, uptime/downtime, cycle times
- ▶ Inspired new continuous improvement initiatives and teams
- ▶ Improved customer experience

Business situation

Plano products are manufactured out of its Mendota and Sandwich, Illinois facilities, and these two sites account for 41 production lines. A plan to replace the traditional paper and pencil-based approach to collecting performance data on the shop floor led Plano to consider a new manufacturing execution system (MES) to automate and optimize production processes and performance. For more than 30 years, Epicor Mattec has provided Plano with a comprehensive set of MES capabilities for production scheduling, machine operation and maintenance, quality management, and real-time analytics to monitor machines and analyze machine-related data such as overall equipment effectiveness (OEE), run rates, scrap, yield, and more.

Mattec captures data directly from machines and operators, and delivers real-time production metrics and operations analytics in an easy-to-digest, visual manner. Manufacturers like Plano use the system to improve on-time delivery and quality, reduce scrap, and boost product throughput—helping to deliver the right product, at the right time, at the right cost.

Getting a handle on plant analytics

With Mattec, Plano can look at critical efficiency measurements—such as OEE and scrap rates—by shift, day, week, or month. Real-time production and process monitoring from Mattec helps Plano eliminate inefficiencies, like reducing scrap and unplanned downtime while also improving cycle



efficiencies, so they can work more profitably. In addition, Mattec inspired the development of various continuous improvement teams and initiatives inside the company.

“Mattec played a significant role in achieving over \$700,000 worth of scrap improvement savings year-to-date, year-over-year,” said Tom Dimick, director of manufacturing at Plano. In regards to scrap, it was important for Plano to establish “molded costs” versus fixed costs so they could evaluate scrap cost savings by very high and very low value products. “Plano is a custom molding shop that manufactures a variety of products that are made up of parts which vary in value. We’ve been able to take the focus off looking at the percentage of scrap improvements and more towards evaluating the part’s dollar value. Mattec allows us to track this information.” Looking at scrap charts shows which machines are having issues with the molds, while scrap tables show which part number has the highest scrap cost. “This information allows our team to focus on the highest-value areas and products that we need to get under control. Focusing on a percentage doesn’t mean the highest dollar value.”

Machine availability and uptime has improved drastically as well. “Mattec allows us to dive into which machines and molds are having problems, giving us real-time feedback on what’s happening in our plants,” added Dimick.

Solving problems before they occur

Using Mattec, Plano has become more proactive in anticipating and solving production problems before they occur. Examples of this are the real-time displays of the Top 5 OEE Machines, Bottom 5 OEE Machines, Top 5 Cycle-Efficient Machines, Top 5 Scrap Reasons, and more that are present on their plant floors. This information has a huge impact on scheduling and allows Plano to quickly determine which machines can run a particular job, which machine is most efficient for the job, and, the reasons for job delays.

“Our team uses the Mattec system more than any other system we have in the company. The shop floor insights that Mattec provides helps our team drive bottom-line growth.”

Improved planning and scheduling

Better planning and scheduling have also enabled Plano to significantly improve its responsiveness to customers and customer satisfaction, especially with their big-box retail clients such as Wal-Mart and Bass Pro Shops.

With Mattec, Plano can click-and-drag the production schedule, instantly change the schedule based on new requirements, or watch the schedule update and adjust automatically based on actual machine speeds, production counts, equipment status, conditions, or job specifications.

“Real-time planning and scheduling insights with Mattec allow us to respond to our customers faster,” said Dimick.

“This is especially critical for rush orders, so when the scheduling department gets an urgent order, they can instantly communicate with plant floor managers and receive optimal plans based on machine efficiencies, production line availability, materials forecasting, and other critical factors to schedule the job.”

Conclusion

“Mattec brings real-time data into our meetings that we never had before. Now with Mattec, we can’t say ‘I think or I feel’—it’s true, raw data about how our plants are performing, day-by-day or year-by-year. Mattec also provides production performance reports that we can quickly and easily share with our frontline leadership. There are so many ways to use the system. We’ve even put kaizen events together around a specific tool or part number,” concluded Dimick.

With real-time shop floor insights, Mattec enables Plano to take immediate action, focus improvement efforts, and drive bottom-line results.



About Epicor

Epicor Software Corporation drives business growth. We provide flexible, industry-specific software that is designed around the needs of our manufacturing, distribution, retail, and service industry customers. More than 40 years of experience with our customers' unique business processes and operational requirements is built into every solution—in the cloud or on premises. With a deep understanding of your industry, Epicor solutions spur growth while managing complexity. The result is powerful solutions that free your resources so you can grow your business. For more information, [connect with Epicor](#) or visit www.epicor.com.



Contact us for more information on Epicor products and services

+1.800.999.6995 info@epicor.com www.epicor.com

Corporate Office
804 Las Cimas Parkway
Austin, TX 78746
USA
Toll Free: +1.888.448.2636
Direct: +1.512.328.2300
Fax: +1.512.278.5590

Latin America and Caribbean
Blvd. Antonio L. Rodriguez #1882 Int. 104
Plaza Central, Col. Santa Maria
Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, CP 64650
Mexico
Phone: +52.81.1551.7100
Fax: +52.81.1551.7117

Europe, Middle East and Africa
No. 1 The Arena
Downshire Way
Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1PU
United Kingdom
Phone: +44.1344.468468
Fax: +44.1344.468010

Asia
238A Thomson Road #23-06
Novena Square Tower A
Singapore 307684
Singapore
Phone: +65.6333.8121
Fax: +65.6333.8131

Australia and New Zealand
Suite 2 Level 8,
100 Pacific Highway
North Sydney, NSW 2060
Australia
Phone: +61.2.9927.6200
Fax: +61.2.9927.6298

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