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Customers want to spend time evaluating our quality systems. They see our system and say, 'I work for a Fortune 500 company and we don't have anything like this.' Plex is right in line with our strategy: high-tech and cutting-edge. It's a good fit.

Jason Howey

President, OKAY Industries

Automated Reporting

Next, OKAY needed Plex to implement a complex costing system that analyzes the cost of producing each part down to the penny. A special costing analysis sheet was built into the system and this sheet is now used to compile very specific, detailed information about material costs, assembly costs, every minute of manpower devoted to producing each part, and more. Some of OKAY's part numbers run over different periods of time, and Plex Cloud ERP is able to capture every aspect of cost related to each part number over time.

"Prior to Plex, most of the compilations and analyses were done manually and were time-consuming. OKAY wanted Plex to pull all this data together from various functions and produce the report electronically," said O'Brien. "We did it. We now have flexible tools to get people what they want."

The specialized costing analysis which used to take hours to produce is now compiled in seconds. The job number is keyed into the screen, and Plex pulls all the info together into the format OKAY has used for years. In addition, managers can drill down through various levels of detailed information to see exactly how the numbers were derived.

Ensuring Success

Howey knew that 50 percent of ERP implementations fail for one of two reasons: the lack of internal buy-in or the lack of a firm "go-live" date. He established an implementation team comprised of champions from various parts of the business and set a specific go-live date to ensure OKAY didn't fall prey to these mistakes.

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The go-live implementation was successful, and OKAY's entire operation functions smoothly and reliably with 100 percent real-time data.

"Information from all parts of our business is in real time," says Production Control's Krystyna Occhi, "so we know exactly what we need, what we have and where it is. We don't get caught short on parts anymore."

Production Visibility

"The key is getting and analyzing the right information so we can identify anything that hinders our progress," Howey says. "Plex is designed to help managers manage. It is more powerful and user-friendly than any program I've ever seen, and it gives us the ability to identify and fix problems we didn't have the resources to quickly identify before."

Production uses various "downtime" codes to identify and keep track of every problem that shuts down a press. This data is compiled and assessed to look for trends in press and operator performance.

"When a press is down, Quality Assurance writes up why the stoppage occurred," Howey explains. "We're able to go in and look to see why a press goes down. We had one job that had a lot of stoppages with a broken emboss. After analyzing the downtime reports, we were able to see a trend. A piece of tooling was breaking. Once we saw the pattern, we changed the shape of the tooling for the emboss."



