



***How Manufacturers Are Making
Their Digital Transformation
Happen Now***

Must-Do Steps that Smooth the Path Ahead—and Deliver Results

PLEX

The digital transformation of manufacturing is happening now: automated processes, smart connected machines and devices, big data, virtual reality, wearables, 3D printing. It's here.

But what does digital transformation mean for your business, in the real manufacturing world?

It means you make better, more-informed business decisions with confidence and speed. It means you eliminate errors and paper-based processes. It also means a serious competitive advantage.

There are three very critical steps that manufacturers have already undertaken to put themselves on the path to digital transformation.

In the pages that follow, you'll see what these manufacturers are doing now—you'll also see that digital transformation is not as complicated, disruptive, or as challenging as you might think.





Control the Shop Floor

Manufacturing starts at the plant floor. This is where material moves, product is created, and where the work gets done. You must have shop floor control, including access to production information, inventory, quality data, and the ability to quickly adjust to machine status across the enterprise.

How? With a cloud ERP that supports manufacturing execution system functionality.



Accuride Corporation

ACCURIDE
CORPORATION



Manufacturer and supplier of wheels and wheel-end components to the North American commercial vehicle industry



Challenge

Lack of enterprise-wide visibility made it difficult to see how the business was performing



Result

10% gain in supply chain productivity

“With Plex all our activities and the data they produce are linked so that we can see in real time what is really happening in our business. For example, we can get data for all direct and indirect purchasing and link that to transactional activities on the floor whether that’s production or maintenance, and integrate that with quality information and shipping.”

—Paul Wright, IT Director, Accuride Corporation



Wolverine Advanced Materials



Developer and manufacturer of performance-critical, specialty elastomer-coated metals for automotive brake; noise, vibration, and harshness (NVH); and sealing industries



Challenge

Difficulty keeping track of raw materials, work in process, and finished goods causing inventory, inaccuracy, and quality challenges



Result

15-20% improvement in first-pass quality

“The improved efficiency and reduced costs from fewer changeovers have been great but we experienced another side benefit. Our first-pass quality has improved by 15-20 percent, varying by grade and by line.”

—Theresa Gemus, Manager of Business Applications, Wolverine Advanced Materials



American Axle & Manufacturing



Automotive parts manufacturer and tier one supplier of driveline and drivetrain systems



Challenge

Lack of visibility into manufacturing operations caused workforce inefficiency and data collection issues



Result

5-10% improvement on inventory turns

“With Plex we can share vital information across the organization, use the activity manager to track processes in real time, and make the improvements that our data tells us we need. People are spending more time on analysis and less time on data collection—which makes for a more efficient and effective workforce.”

—Michael Trathen, Senior Manager Lean System, American Axle & Manufacturing



Connect the business to everything

Less than 1 percent of data collected on the shop floor is used but making this data accessible to everyone in the business is critical.¹ Beyond the plant floor, your business should provide connectivity to your suppliers and your customers. Your employees should have instant access as appropriate to the data they need.

How? With cloud ERP that automates paper-based, manual processes and consolidates information into a single set of accurate data accessible to the users and machines that need it.



Quatro Composites



Designs and manufactures carbon fiber composites for the aerospace, military, and medical industries



Challenge

Could not get accurate information about its business from multiple spreadsheets and manual processes made it difficult to make decisions with confidence



Result

Faster data access and increased ability to scale the business

“With all metrics stored in a single place, we use IntelliPlex analytics to get the information we need—when and where we need it. The dashboards and reporting can be customized to serve virtually any role in the organization. As a result, we are making better informed business decisions that will help us meet and exceed our revenue targets.”

—Andrew Lipps, Director of ERP, Quatro Composites



Shape Corporation



North America's top manufacturer of automotive bumpers



Challenge

Separate systems for preventive maintenance, production, gages, problem controls, and reporting caused wasted time and data inaccuracy

12

Result

12 systems replaced

“For us, Plex is by far the most impressive solution. It doesn’t try to be all things to all men—it is designed for manufacturers with all the processes we’ll probably ever require, built in.”

—Molly Hunting, IT Director, Shape Corporation



Aaron Thomas Co.



Full-service contract packaging manufacturer and service provider focusing on customers in the food, nutraceutical, and pharmaceutical industries



Challenge
Needed to better manage waste and recalls while ensuring quality checks



Result
7 minutes for a mock recall instead of several days

“Customer portals allow clients to manage their inventory offsite and do their ERP planning based on our inventories, production schedules and finished goods. They now have access [to] a majority of the information they would have once gotten from a sales rep directly through the system.”

—Aaron Bacon, Sales and Marketing Representative, Aaron Thomas Co.



Unlock people potential

Free up and focus your people on solving manufacturing business problems—instead of gathering disparate data, managing software updates, or dealing with a lack of IT resources.

How? With a cloud ERP that lowers your total cost of ownership, allows your people to focus on your business, and gives you predictable costs.



Green Flash Brewing



Craft beer brewer



Challenge

Needed to integrate processes to get control of its inventory and enable employees to focus on growing the business instead of performing unnecessary manual tasks



Result

96% reduction in inventory discrepancies

“With the Plex model, we were able to get significantly lower cost of ownership over a 10-year period. Plus, I don’t have to deal with the headache of having a big IT system in-house. It allows us to focus on what we do best.”

—Steve Goodger, Chief Financial Officer, Green Flash Brewing



Jagemann Stamping Co.

JAGEMANN



Full-service stamping manufacturer of deep drawn, progressive, and fineblanked stampings



Challenge

Patched-together systems required a lot of IT time managing system maintenance and upgrades



Result

Redeployed 50% of IT staff to strategic positions

“Prior to Plex, the ratio of user devices to IT staff was 40-to-one. After implementation, that ratio rose to nearly 100-to-one. We now have a smaller IT staff managing and supporting twice as many devices as before.”

—Patti Nowak, Project Manager, Jagemann Stamping Co.



FT Precision



Manufacturer of motor vehicle engine and chassis component parts



Challenge

Paper-based processes did not allow employees to keep pace with the company's real-time, lean production environment



Result

Higher employee engagement, productivity, satisfaction, and efficiency

“The real-time nature of the Plex Manufacturing Cloud gives everyone cross-company visibility...we also made a promise that our production teams would drastically cut down the amount of time they spent on admin!”

—Kent Baxter, IT Assistant Manager, FT Precision

These manufacturers aren't waiting around. They are leading the digital transformation by relying on a manufacturing cloud ERP to control the shop floor, connect their business, and unlock the potential of their people.

You can too.



Let us show you the benefits of digital transformation with the Plex Manufacturing Cloud.

Call us at 855.534.8012
www.plex.com