



ICONIC BRITISH CAR MAKER UPGRADES WITH IFS

MINI Plant Swindon has upgraded its ERP system to IFS Applications 7.0 to increase collaboration and internal efficiencies. The IFS software has been upgraded at the plant, which is responsible for the manufacture of the MINI pressings, improving internal efficiencies and enabling a smoother, leaner running operation.



HISTORY

In 2002, the IFS Applications enterprise management software was implemented at MINI Plant Swindon to replace the systems. IFS was originally chosen in May 2000 to provide MINI Plant Swindon with an ERP solution which covered licenses, consulting services, and maintenance and support for a comprehensive implementation serving circa 300 concurrent users. The project was split into three phases for implementation based around specific business processes and respective IT legacy systems. The first phase to replace all of the financial and purchasing systems was completed by the end of 2001. This also included some of the store systems and work setting up base data for the later phases.

The core manufacturing activities, replacing the logistics and the manufacturing support side of the business, went live during the summer of 2002. The third phase covers discrete components such as human resources, maintenance, engineering and business systems which are free to move at their own speed. IFS was then awarded an upgrade project in 2009 to integrate MINI Plant Swindon with the plant in Oxford.

THE IMPLEMENTATION

The system was upgraded to the latest version available, IFS Applications 7.0. As part of this upgrade, MINI Plant Swindon gained increased functionality with many of its modules, including inventory control, production and scheduling. This also included an additional monitoring function which the plant now uses to monitor and control press lines—making monitoring much easier and the production process much tighter. As part of this extra functionality, IFS is now used for end of line machine monitoring. The system picks up the data from the machine presses and analyses this for the business to review, enabling an extra level of intelligence to the operation. All in all, the upgrade took nine months of planning—with the actual go live delivered within a very strict timeframe of only four days. The execution of the upgrade had to be done within MINI Plant Swindon's only downtime in the year.

“We pride ourselves on being the most flexible provider to work with. MINI Plant Swindon specified a non-negotiable time frame for the upgrade. By ensuring we understood MINI Plant Swindon’s business model we were able to agree to this deadline and, most importantly, deliver it on time,” said Andrew Pettit, Senior Consultant at IFS UK, who was responsible for overseeing the project.

RESULT

MINI Plant Swindon now uses the upgraded IFS system to monitor and control its press lines more efficiently. The IFS system now serves as the only system which connects the plants—where MINI Plant Swindon receives the schedules ‘off the pull’ from the MINI Plant Oxford. This is an important bridge, where effectively IFS unifies these sites to ensure a cohesive operation. “Having worked with MINI Plant Swindon for a number of years, we’re pleased to be building on our partnership,” concludes Pettit.

BENEFITS

- Upgraded business systems to latest release of IFS Applications
- Press lines are now monitored and controlled more efficiently
- System now connects the company’s Swindon and Oxford plants
- Schedules now received ‘off the pull’