

# NUMBER 1 MANUFACTURER AND DISTRIBUTOR, THREEBOND, SELECTS IFS APPLICATIONS™ FOR BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT



ThreeBond saw a vision to support the protection of Japan's natural resources by developing industrial sealants and adhesives to prevent precious energy from leaking. Today, the company enjoys the number one position for industrial sealants and adhesives, with global operations to support its valued customers. However, managing company operations in real time with an outdated system proved difficult for meeting supply and demand. Since implementing IFS Applications to transform its operations, ThreeBond has improved productivity through increased business visibility to better support its customers.

## OPERATIONAL AND COST MANAGEMENT HINDERED BY OUTDATED SYSTEMS

Using a heavily customized and outdated system that could only be supported by a few employees made it difficult for the company to manage core business processes in real time. "Management had difficulties seeing up-to-date information. It was rough, and figures such as operating costs and profits were not calculated in real time with that system. This made it hard to make quick decisions that impacted the business," says Kazumi Asano, Senior Manager of the Information System Planning Division at ThreeBond Group. "Furthermore, managing supply and demand was based on manual estimates, and it was not easy to know the exact availability of inventory and raw material quantities."

As demand and growth for ThreeBond's quality sealants and adhesives grew, their business environment was ever changing. Global customer demand increased, which saw ThreeBond develop new lines and expand its manufacturing footprint. Furthermore, it demanded shorter production lifecycles. "We had no one source of historical truth to better support our future growth," says Mr. Asano.

## "IF YOU ARE IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, IFS HAS THE BEST SOLUTION"

ThreeBond went through a business transformation project with IFS customer and partner, NEC, to modernize operations. As a part of the recommendations, ThreeBond went to tender for an ERP solution capable of supporting its core business processes in manufacturing, global supply chain and financial management. "IFS Applications was selected because IFS has the best solution for our manufacturing business," says Mr. Asano. IFS earned the highest marks among eight ERP solutions. Key evaluated factors were: quality of system; reliability and stability; cost; implementation plan and schedule; functionality; user friendliness and ability to use anywhere in the globe; and IFS's investment into R&D and producing a sound roadmap. "Most importantly, IFS Applications will contribute to our business improvement program," says Mr. Asano.

## ABOUT THREEBOND

ThreeBond is the leading company in industrial sealants and adhesives. Its products have become necessities in the production processes of various products in many areas such as used automobiles and other vehicles, transportation equipment, public construction materials, building materials, electric and electronic equipment, and high technologies. The company has production and sales systems in Japan, North and Central America, South America, Europe, Asia, and China, with 2,780 employees in all. [www.threebond.com](http://www.threebond.com)

## BENEFITS

- Real-time business insights
- Centralized solution to manage core business processes
- Improved supply and demand

Throughout the implementation, ThreeBond went through two major restructurings. “NEC responded to the changes with ease and agility, and the project was delivered on time,” says Mr. Yukio Mizobuchi, Manager of Information System Planning Division at ThreeBond Group.

With a centralized system supporting its core business processes, ThreeBond is reaping the benefits with improved productivity and enjoying better visibility of its operations. “Since implementing a new Cost Management Department coupled with IFS Applications, we have visibility of detailed costs such as cost per shop order, cost per lot, and cost per product, and it is now possible to see profits and a breakdown of allocation,” says Mr. Yuki Takahashi, project member at ThreeBond. “Because of more accurate cost management, we now understand final costs and whether they differed from the forecast.”

The single repository made it easier to share information between the sales and production teams, resulting in increased customer satisfaction and on-time delivery. “We can more accurately forecast demand and provide timely delivery to customers,” says Mr. Asano. “Furthermore, by setting alarms on inventory depletion, warehouse management and procurement has become more streamlined, better supporting our production plans.”

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**Kazumi Asano, Senior Manager of Information System Planning Division, ThreeBond Group**

End users are also enjoying the enhanced user-friendly solution, allowing them to easily search and drill down into information. Reporting is now accurate, with real-time business insights enabling management to make decisions quickly and properly.

### GROWING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

As the market leader, ThreeBond continues to enjoy strong demand for its solutions with 8 factories and over 70 sales offices in Japan. With IFS Applications supporting its core business processes, ThreeBond is in a strong position to capitalize on its growth trajectory. “IFS Applications and NEC have given us the platform to look at additional ways to drive further operational efficiencies,” says Mr. Takahashi.



#### SOFTWARE

- IFS Financials™
- IFS Manufacturing™
- IFS Supply Chain™

Further information, e-mail to [info@ifsworld.com](mailto:info@ifsworld.com), contact your local IFS office or visit our web site, [IFSworld.com](http://IFSworld.com)

