

FACTIVITY

CASE STUDY - FCI USA

THE CHALLENGE

The MES needed to be simple to use for their 180 factory floor employees and must be installed without disruption.

THE SOLUTION

FCI USA installed FACTIVITY, which included an interface ready for their business management system. The operator interface was easy to use with touchscreens and a bright, bold color coding system.

THE RESULTS

- Decreased scheduling time
- Increased product/job visibility
- Decreased set-ups
- Increased production capacity
- Decreased late orders

“Knowing where the work is at all times has been the most amazing difference since we installed FACTIVITY.”

--Linda Copson, FCI USA

FCI USA is a New Hampshire manufacturer of electrical connectors and installation tooling. The company is a user of QAD's MFG/PRO. Their production floor data and information needed to be transferred from their production facility in Littleton to the business management system at their division headquarters in Manchester, NH, as quickly and easily as possible. They tested a bar-coding system, in an attempt to achieve the data collection, but the system was cumbersome and hard to use.

SEAMLESS INTERFACE WITH MFG/PRO AT REMOTE LOCATION

Upon installation, FCI wanted FACTIVITY to immediately interface with MFG/PRO. This was perceived by FCI as the most difficult part of the installation process. In reality, “it was a piece of cake,” stated Linda Copson, Sr. Manufacturing Business Analyst for FCI USA. A T1 Data Line was used to link the two systems, which are located in two different facilities, separated by 100 miles. In a matter of minutes, communication was established between the two systems.

PAINLESS EMPLOYEE TRAINING WITH TOUCH SCREENS

The next step was to train the floor employees to use FACTIVITY. According to Ms. Copson, “The most important reason why we selected FACTIVITY was because of its easy-to-use operator interface. FACTIVITY is not bogged down with unnecessary programming.”

FCI set FACTIVITY in the “demo-training mode” and divided the factory floor into groups. Each group was phased-in and would decide when they were ready to “go live”. Due to FACTIVITY's easy-to-use touch screen interface and bright, bold, color-coding system, some groups were on line in as little as two weeks after training. All groups were on-line within six months. In addition, the operator interface has helped FCI's non-English speaking employees adjust quickly and easily.

Because of their success with FACTIVITY, FCI has installed FACTIVITY at a second manufacturing facility located in Lincoln. “We are a big corporation and we try to spend our money wisely. Our investment in FACTIVITY was definitely worth it.”

