

Stock Control in an Electronics Production & Assembly Environment



Company : Intheairnet (UK)
Managing Director: Peter Smith

Background: Intheairnet (UK) designs and manufactures in-flight entertainment and cabin management systems for VIP and Business Jet applications.

Its products have been installed on many VVIP aircraft from BBJ's to 747's for many prominent figures, organisations and companies around the globe.

Whilst the company manufactures a standard range of electronic entertainment/management equipment, each order/project will have its own bespoke requirements; the company is dealing with the very top end of the in-flight luxury entertainment sector after all.

The company was presented with the following problems:

Problem 1: It was often a very difficult and time consuming task just trying to locate a particular electronic component within their database of parts.

Problem 2: Maintaining and recalling supplier prices was an administrative nightmare made worse by the virtue that for any one item, it could be purchased from several different suppliers all with different lead-times and batch prices.

Problem 3: Despite many Customers Orders / Projects being very similar, a new part number had to be created for each order and the Assembly / Bill of Materials created from scratch, creating unnecessary work and a growing parts database.

Problem 4: Whilst everyone else in the organisation was crying out for a new system, the accounting department was happy with their current Sage Line 50 accounting system and did not wish to change it.

Problem 5: As the company's database of parts was exceeding the 30,000 mark and growing, their current system was beginning to slow down as a result. Being in a traceable industry, they had to maintain history for each item despite many not being used for several years.



Solution: Factory-Master with its integrated Sales, Purchase, Production, Stock (including comprehensive traceability for the Aerospace and Automotive industry) and sitting on an SQL Database platform addressed all of the requirements of Intheairnet as follows:

1. Through the searching facilities, a user can search by Part No, Description, Product Group or a word or string of characters contained within each field.
2. An unlimited amount of suppliers can be associated per part, each with their own Lead-Times, Batch Prices & Supplier own Part Numbers.
3. Assemblies / Bill of Materials can be imported to a new Assembly Part Number and then altered. Additionally, a Production Order / Job can be created from a standard Assembly and then components can be added or removed.
4. Factory-Master integrates with Sage Line 50. All the generated Sales Invoices and matched Purchase Invoices from Factory-Master are imported onto the correct ledger (Sales & Purchasing) and onto the correct account within sage Line 50 automatically.
5. As Factory-Master stores all its data in an SQL Database, there was no detrimental impact in speed by having 30,000 plus items within Stock. Additionally, unused items can be marked as 'redundant' so that they don't have to appear in searches (but this does not affect history and traceability)