

Overcome today's top 4 manufacturing challenges

Streamline your business operations processes.

Find out how >

Move forward. Move beyond ERP.

You don't need a software vendor to tell you the most effective methods to combat intense competition and grow sustainably. Find new ways to manufacture innovative products faster, improve your business processes, and reduce costs.

But mounting pressures that you can't ignore are interfering with achieving those goals. And these challenges will only worsen if you're using manual, disconnected systems or basic accounting applications. The fact is you need a solution that can manage your finances, your customers, your inventory, and your employees.

You're far from alone if the following four challenges are familiar to you. If you're experiencing any of them, it's probably time to take action and find a business management solution that will help you grow confidently and profitably.



Today's top 4 manufacturing challenges



1. Decreased process efficiencies

All manufacturers face the following mandates:

- Reduce costs and respond to price pressures.
- Respond faster to customer demands.
- Speed turnaround times.

These challenges are difficult to solve if you're still relying on manual workflows and disparate systems to manage your processes. The good news is that today's business management solutions streamline and accelerate manufacturing operations. They unite all business functions, becoming the one piece of software into which all information is input and processed. This helps reduce delays for relevant information to reach the people that need it. It also reduces the time it takes to compete tasks.



2. Limited visibility across the extended supply chain

Visibility into your business is essential and can give you an edge over your competitors. But the visibility required to compete effectively can be hindered when your systems, processes, and disparate business units are disconnected.

For example, are you able to see, in real time, the status of work orders, sales orders, inventory, and resource allocation? A modern business management solution can provide you accurate answers to big questions, enabling you to make better business decisions. With all costs, sales figures, and marketing data being input into one system, you're able to gain up-to-the-minute insights into your business at any time.



3. Reduced agility to respond to rapidly changing industry conditions

How quickly are your employees able to respond to market, customer, or vendor issues? Do they have all the information they need to make accurate, timely decisions that affect your bottom line? Or are they mired in time-consuming workarounds? And will you be able to scale, expand, and meet all your accounting needs while you prepare to grow towards a cloud solution?

Modern management solutions provide ready-to-use functionality for manufacturers and offer customizable capabilities. That makes it easy to adjust to your unique processes.



4. Increased compliance and regulatory requirements

Regulations that affect the manufacturing industry change often. That means you need to ensure your processes comply with those regulations, or else face often hefty penalties.

Modern business management solutions will automate and standardize those processes to ensure compliance from tax and accounting to human resources and payroll, and they will also provide audit trails for documentation and reporting purposes.

3 technologies that will revolutionize your manufacturing process

While the challenges detailed on the previous page can be daunting, there's good news. By embracing the following technology trends—all of which are available with the right business management solution—you'll be in a better position to share information more easily, speed turnaround times, and automate low-value, manual tasks. And that will enable you to run your business more efficiently, accelerate growth and revenue, and deliver innovative and high-quality goods.



1. Increase flexibility and responsiveness with cloud services

Collaborative problem-solving fuels innovation. More and more, manufacturers are turning to collaborative tools, which are accessible via modern business management solutions. These tools promote knowledge-sharing among employees, suppliers, partners, and customers. By providing stakeholders with easier ways to share information, knowledge, and ideas, you'll put yourself in better position to come up with more innovative and even disruptive products.

In addition to promoting your ability to adopt and scale new capabilities as needed, flexible cloud-connected business management solutions offer lower initial costs, faster implementation, and seamless upgrades that provide greater control over IT expenses.



2. Make better decisions using business intelligence

As a manufacturer, you accumulate large volumes of data, but it can be a challenge converting that data into meaningful insights. You may also want to utilize third-party information and data, which could influence your demand and supply chain.

The right business management solution provides you with the ability to analyze your business and keep a proactive eye on your operations. Business intelligence capabilities such as exception alerts, triggers, and predictive analytics capabilities can make this easy for you. This can bring together manufacturing data with unstructured data along with various external information to deliver previously undiscovered insights.



3. Enable the rise of the mobile workforce

Mobile access to information can make all the difference to your team, enabling them to make informed decisions based on up-to-date information. Whether your team uses tablets, smartphones, or other mobile devices, mobile access to information allows your managers and staff to interact with business systems to access real-time actionable information right from the shop floor.

The ability to access continuous, real-time information and analytics increases operating efficiency, promotes visibility, enhances productivity, and decreases costs. It also further streamlines processes that promote regulatory compliance.

An affordable, customizable business management solution can:

- Offer easy access to the data you need to make smarter business decisions.
- Provide insight into inventory for better planning and demand forecasting.
- Allow for secure sharing of data with customers to improve lead times and service.
- Generate sales orders, invoices, and financial forecasts automatically, not only reducing data entry time, but also the need to be so reliant on spreadsheets.



IN ONE CUSTOMER'S WORDS

"It was very difficult to find a software application that would support our assembly and inventory control requirements and offer the job costing functionality we need. Sage 100cloud—with its inventory, bill of materials, job cost, and timecard modules—handles all functions extremely well. Plus, it is easy to learn and easy to train our staff to use."

—Tom Dinolfo, CFO, **Heresite Protective Coatings**

Ready to take the next step?

Learn more at: <http://www.DSDinc.com>

For more information, request a product demo or call us at [800-627-9032](tel:800-627-9032)