Reduce Work-in-Process (WIP) Inventory and Costs

Manual tracking of assembly parts in heavy industry

Heavy industrial plants such as assembly, transportation, and construction equipment require a lot of shop-floor space to assemble. Tracking parts in different stages of assembly is a highly manual process. In fact, even trying to find an assembly can involve a manual search of the manufacturing center. In some cases, companies have lost very large products somewhere in their factory.

Take your manufacturing to the next level

The power of a WIP tracking and execution solution can transform the way you manufacture heavy industry products. Today’s latest technology solutions provide operators and supervisors with the capabilities to:

• Improve WIP visibility by providing visualization of the order queue at stations
• Improve order tracking with insights such as the ETA of orders based on progress
• Improve material movement management with capabilities such as simple material movement data collection (RFID, barcode, manual)

Now imagine if you could...

• Know where orders in your plant are without walking the shop floor
• Reduce WIP by knowing when orders will be processed by work centers
• Keep indirect labor costs low by providing coordination of material movement
• Reduce shop floor clutter from materials waiting for future orders, and operate more “in the now”
• Reduce plant floor “starve time” due to lack of materials required for a process step

Gain visibility of all work in process

Solutions such as GE Digital’s WIP Manager, part of the Brilliant Manufacturing suite, provides plant floor visibility of all work in process. It helps heavy industry manufacturers lower working capital and increase schedule adherence in days, not months.

With WIP Manager, heavy industry manufacturers have delivered business outcomes such as:

- 10-20% Reduction in Material Inventory
- 15% Improvement in Utilization
- 30% Reduction in Re-work
- 80% Reduction in Turnaround Times
- 10% Improvement in Schedule Adherence

Six signs you may have a WIP problem

1. Operators work on the easiest orders first, and I have no way to re-prioritize orders in real time. (FIFO method, by customer)
2. My WIP is high because no one or few people know when orders will be processed by work centers.
3. My plant floor is crammed with materials for future orders or I have significant “starve” downtime where required materials aren’t present for orders.
4. Indirect labor is high due to lack of coordination of material management.
5. It is hard to visualize capacity versus actual queues.
6. Without walking the shop floor, no one or few people know where the orders are in the plant.

Inventory reduction is a major concern1

$10-$100M can be generated in 60-90 days by improving inventory management1

Inventory reduction is a major concern2

In additional costs come from inventory risk3

Inventory reduction is a major concern2

1. Source: http://www.reliableplant.com/Read/141/reduce-inventories
2. Source: http://blog.jobboss.com/job-shop-software/reduce-inventories-increase-your-job-shops-bottom-line-by-30-or-more

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LEARN MORE ABOUT WIP MANAGER