

Clipsal Manufacturing (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd

About Clipsal Malaysia

Established since 1980, Clipsal Manufacturing (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd is the sales and marketing arm of Clipsal Group. It distributes "CLIPSAL" range of products in Malaysia. Clipsal Group is principally engaged in the manufacture and distribution of electrical wiring devices and installation systems (EWDIS) in Asia. It has a significant presence across Asia, with manufacturing operations in China, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam, and, a sales network covering more than 15 countries in Asia. It is the sole and exclusive manufacturer and distributor of EWDIS products under the "CLIPSAL" brand in 31 countries in Asia.

About Clipsal Group

CLIPSAL offers more than 20,000 different products across a broad range of domestic, data, industrial and automation products. Originating from Australia in 1920s, the "Clipsal" brand is Australia's No. 1 brand of electrical accessories, Asia's No.1 Brand in electrical installation products and top 5 in the world.

Product Mix

Clipsal Manufacturing (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd produces a variety of products that you can view on their website at: <http://www.clipsal.com.my>

The Project

Clipsal Malaysia Managing Director Mr. Tracy Rogers wanted to improve the production management of their injection molding operation. He contacted Taylor Systems Ltd (Hongkong) on January 16, 2007 and the project started on February 1, 2007. In April 2007, the project was extended to include the assembly lines.

1. Production scheduling problems:

- Clipsal is using SAP as their ERP system. After the system generated orders, they had to manually schedule their machines for plastic injection.
- The company did not know which order was running on which machine until the output went to inventory.
- The company and their supply chain did not know when each order would start.
- When machines broke down it was difficult to create a new schedule to reflect this change in available capacity.

2. Goals of the project:

- To implement a production scheduling tool which would be able to schedule orders for 45 machines.

Highlights

- Taylor Scheduler allowed Clipsal Malaysia to implement a production scheduling solution in less than 3 months.
- Taylor Scheduler gives Clipsal Malaysia the flexibility to change the schedule easily and quickly.
- Taylor Scheduler allows Clipsal Malaysia supply chain to know in advance when their orders will start.
- Taylor Scheduler allows everyone on the plant floor and in management to see which machines are working on which orders.

CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

- To implement a short term view of the schedule so their supply chain would know when their orders were scheduled to start.

3. How Taylor Scheduler succeeded in meeting/exceeding these goals:

- In this implementation, Taylor Scheduler is not integrated with their SAP system so it does not do real-time data transfer (this is planned be done at a later date). Instead, an Excel template was developed that allows for data to be exported from SAP and then imported into Taylor Scheduler.
- Taylor Scheduler groups orders for similar products on the same machine in order to save setup time.
- 2 TV screens placed on the plant floor display the schedule from Taylor Scheduler and refresh every minute (showing 12 machines at one time). Operators can easily view the schedule directly, providing them with timely information; for example, what is the next order, etc. It saves time in communicating the schedule throughout the organization and avoids the problems inherent with a “single man decision”.



4. Time to Implement:

- The first project (Plastic Injection) started early February and was launched before the end of March. It took approximately 1.5 months to implement the work.
- The second project (assembly) started in April and was launched within 3 weeks.

5. Unique challenges encountered during the implementation:

- Getting production updates from the plant floor.

6. Potential for more implementations:

- Yes, Clipsal has a factory in China almost double the size of the Clipsal Malaysia facility.