



K8 Manufacturing playing an essential role

Formed in 1979, Steyport is a family-owned company, specialising in the manufacture of premium quality paints and wood finishes for the own label market, and a market-leading supplier of printing inks for the wall covering sector.



Results

- Improved all round efficiency
- Integration – one-time data entry
- Real-time stock control
- Accurate process costing
- Standardised work-flow practices
- Complete materials and WIP visibility
- QA support for production process
- Batch control and traceability
- Dashboards to aid decision making
- Remote system access for sales order input
- R&D specification data direct to production

Currently processing nearly 2,000 orders annually, with around 10% of production being exported, the company's well established client base includes Anstey, Borås Tapeter, Graham & Brown, John Lewis, Laura Ashley and Wilkinson.

Steyport operates from a purpose-built 45,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility in Blackburn and has its own in-house R&D facility which develops and formulates bespoke products tailored to meet clients' individual requirements.

A system for the future

By 2009, Steyport had reached the end of the road with their existing system and the search began for a modern, fully integrated solution. Steyport managing director, Wendy Drake said, "Although it had served us well, the system lacked a development path and its functionality was falling behind what we needed." Having scanned the market for suitable systems, the Steyport management team short listed two products, one of which was K8 Manufacturing, for benchmarking against the company's business needs. Ultimately, K8 Manufacturing was judged for being the best solution and was also backed by positive industry credentials. "We chose the system for being the best all-round package, that it would be fully supported and continue to be developed."

Installation preparations

K8 Manufacturing is an integrated, modular system designed to accommodate a wide range of business needs. Once an order is placed for a new system, Kerridge Commercial Systems (KCS) uses its Business Process Mapping programme to ensure that the set-up preparations are well planned and detailed in readiness for each implementation. "KCS consultants spent about a week with us, learning about our processes. This was followed up by a presentation with screen layouts and documentation to show how the system would be delivered. Having signed off the proposals, we moved on to complete the training programme and data conversion preparations," said Wendy.

Unquestionably, we would certainly find it very difficult to run the factory without the K8 Manufacturing system today.



System in action

The system began to deliver benefits to Steypport soon after the go live, although inevitably, there were some changes in business processes and procedures, and new terminology to learn. Nevertheless, things settled down quite quickly. Central to Steypport's use of K8 Manufacturing is being able to have complete control of stock – in terms of raw materials, work-in progress and finished products, with full visibility of real-time information.

In addition to raw materials there are many packaging items to manage ranging from 100ml tester pots to 1,000 litre containers. Essentially, manufacturing is carried out to standard 'recipes' but because the processes involve blending a mixture of (usually) organic materials, variations occur and when combined together they virtually always produce slightly different results. "Every batch is tested by our QC department, with each product having its own range of tests, specification and pass/fail criteria. It is most likely that a batch of material will need at least one 'tweak', for example, the addition of water, longer mixing or more of a particular ingredient. Changes in materials are inputted directly into the system at the time to ensure that stock and batch information is constantly up to date."

With the on-going cycle of new products being formulated, it is enormously beneficial that as soon as a specification is finalised, the R&D team can load the details on to the system ready for production. The integrated sales order processing facilities also enable customer orders to be loaded into the system via remote connection, avoiding the need for sales staff to return to the factory. Since implementing K8 Manufacturing, Steypport has added product health and safety information, specifically COSHH, to the systems' database covering product specifics and documentation applicable for the shop floor team.

Business Value

All in all, the company told us that the real value of their K8 Manufacturing system is centred on how it makes the business more efficient – there are fewer demands on their admin team and with the power and flexibility of the management dash boards, decisions can be made faster knowing that information is real-time and accurate.

"The gains in efficiency in every area have been very worthwhile. Unquestionably, we would certainly find it very difficult to run the factory without the system, and being able to see the company's financial performance on an up-to-the-minute basis is invaluable to me," said Wendy.

Highlights

- Selected for being the best all-round package
- Gains in efficiency in every area
- Very difficult to run the business without the system

About Kerridge Commercial Systems (KCS)

KCS provides advanced, fully integrated business systems, installation and support services for the manufacturing and field service markets, the company has over 40 years of extensive knowledge and experience of working with manufacturers, field service engineers and distributors across many sectors. Our class leading solutions are functionally rich and highly flexible.

Our solutions have a track record of delivering wide ranging benefits including greater operational efficiency and cost savings, resource and asset utilisation, together with real-time information for management decision making.

Contact KCS

UK +44 (0) 191 419 4190

info@kerridgecs.com

www.kerridgecs.com