

CASE STUDY

Endeavour
Speciality Chemicals

Founded in 1991, Endeavour are a specialist manufacturer of synthetic High Impact Aroma Chemicals (HIAC's) used largely in the flavour and fragrance industry. Selling to the major flavour companies across the globe, Endeavour are renowned for their high quality products which they repeat and reproduce in their in-house manufacturing laboratories.

CUSTOMER PORTRAIT

Endeavour has a key expertise in handling sulphur and heterocyclic chemistries, a pretty technical area, and this has allowed them to become sector leaders in the production of flavours, fragrances and in pharmaceutical research.

Operating from Daventry, they supply products worldwide in quantities ranging from just one gramme, through to tens of kilogrammes. Their highly controlled labs and 60 fume hoods allow them to repeat hundreds of exact recipes for their clients and track quality throughout the process.

INITIAL NEEDS

Endeavour needed to replace their cumbersome handwritten paper scheduling which was difficult to share, update and change.

They wanted to mimic the 3 key aspects of production and show equipment utilisation, process stages and the production chemist associated with each individual task.

This then needed to be shared and updated in real time to allow schedulers and team leaders to be able to control workflows and future activities.



The solution had to have good visuals that presented the right information in an easy to read format for the different users and also provide top level data for management use.

SOFTWARE SELECTION PROCESS

The search for a combined planning and scheduling solution took place over an 18 month period and was headed by Dr Gary Cartwright, Operations Manager. Dr Cartwright found many packages to be very expensive, that they asked for a high number of minimum licences or involved heavy 'up-front' fees. Even then, they failed to offer the suitable graphics or the desired flexibility of configuration.

The larger, enterprise based, database driven solutions that were considered were either wrongly focussed, provided poor graphics and unsuitable visibility, or were simply too largely biased towards specific industry sectors to ever work for Endeavour.

Visual Planning, by contrast, appeared to meet all of their requirements and “the feel looked great”. It was also a winner “on cost alone” and this was helped because training was kept to minimum due to the ease of use of the simple ‘drag and drop’ user interface.

RESULTS

The end solution “exceeded expectations” and provided “all they wanted” according to Dr Cartwright. The system was easy to use and required little training across a mixed audience of users.

Visual Planning has led to a change from information being ‘in the heads of a few’ or ‘on paper’ to it now being presented in a modern, easy to share format. Information is now readily available and transparent to all, at all levels, at all times.



This has created business continuity and has allowed for the development of capability within existing teams. It has led to more key staff being involved in the management and scheduling of tasks and being able to see the percentage occupancy of equipment has been very powerful.

Data collected by Visual Planning has in particular dramatically streamlined the Quality Assurance steps required whenever a piece of measuring equipment is found to be out of calibration. The QA investigation trail can now be identified in seconds, by simply scrolling through old batches to see what was made subsequent to the last calibration.

Visual Planning permitted the business to modernise its’ planning activities and provide information to be shared effectively. Real time updates means that collaborative working is now the norm and ease of use has meant a high take up and a positive approach towards scheduling throughout the laboratories, with minimal training requirement. So, not only has it proven to be a cost effective solution, it has also provided several key business benefits.