

## SAP Solution Brief



# SAP® MANUFACTURING – MANUFACTURING INTELLIGENCE DASHBOARDS

## Manufacturing Intelligence with SAP® Manufacturing

Production personnel are hindered in their ability to make rapid, right-time decisions on the factory floor by their inability to gather relevant information from disparate, stand-alone systems. Additional challenges include the lack of real-time alerts on shop floor exceptions, workflows to resolve them, and relevant key performance indicators for production processes.

Manufacturing intelligence dashboards offered in the SAP® Manufacturing solution provide configurable role-based entry pages that deliver the visibility production personnel need to be responsive to exceptions and changes in demand or supply, deliver superior performance, and run manufacturing at the speed of business.

### Working Smarter on the Shop Floor

To thrive in a world of global competition and demanding customers, manufacturers must be able to sense and respond to change, and adapt quickly and accurately to evolving conditions. To a large extent, adaptability depends on a company's frontline production employees – and making sure those employees are armed with the right information. To remove delays and errors from processes – and enable manufacturing to work at the speed of the business – you need to give plant managers, quality inspectors, and production and maintenance supervisors the ability to identify and resolve problems rapidly, as they arise, and to monitor, measure, and improve manufacturing performance over time.

In short, adaptiveness depends on being able to push decision making to the shop floor. But that's often easier said than done. At many companies, the various systems used for enterprise resource planning (ERP), manufacturing execution, and shop-floor automation are not well integrated. Data is fragmented across systems. There is little or no real-time information about production events available on the shop floor. And users cannot easily access up-to-date reports and perform the rapid analyses needed to evaluate and improve performance.

It's an environment where plant managers and production personnel are overloaded with data – but without ready access to essential information about orders, labor, machines, material, and capacity. Pulling information together from disparate systems is slow and difficult, and decision makers have to work without a clear, up-to-date view of what is actually happening in the plant. In short, production personnel are faced with a fundamental lack of visibility into their manufacturing operations, which makes it difficult to understand and respond to change, impairs their performance, and ultimately hampers the company's ability to meet customers' needs.

### **Keeping Production People up to Speed**

To help manufacturers tackle those challenges – and empower production personnel on the shop floor – SAP offers the SAP® Manufacturing solution with comprehensive, integrated capabilities that include powerful manufacturing intelligence dashboards that deliver integrated, targeted information about the status of the plant and production lines at a glance.

Manufacturing intelligence dashboards aggregate relevant content from the full range of manufacturing systems (ERP, manufacturing execution, and shop-floor automation) into a single, up-to-the-minute view of operations. By providing visibility into plant activities, these role-specific dashboards enable employees to monitor and manage manufacturing performance and respond quickly and effectively to changes. Automatic alerts inform decision makers when problems and exceptions arise in production. They in turn can trigger automated workflows to resolve these before they become customer issues.

With the manufacturing intelligence dashboards offered in SAP Manufacturing, you can provide your production personnel with:

- Content that is based on the individual's role in the manufacturing process, which ensures that employees have the relevant information needed to manage and make decisions in a format they are comfortable with – while eliminating the overload of extraneous data

- Integrated decision support for planning and execution, by giving production personnel a clear understanding of the current status of plant operations and the actions they can take to keep performance levels high
- Ready-to-use manufacturing and business content, such as key performance indicators (KPIs) for production processes, which can be configured and displayed to meet the user's needs, as well as the ability to draw real-time data from various applications
- Sophisticated analytics and reporting tools that allow decision makers to quickly recognize trends, detect potential problems, analyze their root causes, and identify opportunities to improve production performance
- Real-time exception detection and management, enabling employees to monitor processes closely and address problems quickly – before they have a negative impact on the customer

With manufacturing intelligence dashboards, production personnel can easily monitor critical metrics, using the company's custom reports or KPIs from a predefined library provided by SAP. They can drill down on each KPI to analyze the cause and get to the bottom of problems. Responding to real-time alerts in their dashboards, production personnel can trigger workflows in SAP ERP to resolve problems quickly.

The dashboards are designed to meet specific company needs and fit in with established systems and processes. These dashboards can be configured easily to track and display the metrics that are important to your company, and users can personalize dashboards to enhance access to the information needed for their jobs.

Manufacturing intelligence dashboards are integrated with SAP solutions, such as SAP Business Intelligence, which ensures that frontline employees have access to a full range of business information. Based on the open SAP NetWeaver™ platform, dashboards can be integrated easily with the SAP xApps™ portfolio of pack-

aged composite applications and non-SAP systems as well, providing the scalability to grow with changing business conditions. Overall, this integrated, flexible approach ensures that the dashboards can meet your needs today and tomorrow – with a low total cost of ownership.

### **The Payoff of Empowered Employees**

Manufacturing intelligence dashboards enable your production personnel to make rapid, accurate decisions on the factory floor, and let your company:

- **Execute production plans on time and within budget** using real-time snapshots of factory and production-line operations, sophisticated decision-support tools, and current production-cost data
- **Find and solve problems quickly and proactively** with real-time exception detection and alerts that highlight critical situations and automated workflows that let employees trigger the right responses to issues as they arise
- **Increase productivity and efficiency** by giving employees easy access to aggregated, targeted data from multiple, heterogeneous systems in a user-friendly format, configured to their specific needs
- **Keep improving manufacturing processes over time** with the ability to track KPIs; perform root-cause analyses; and monitor, measure, and control production performance

### **To Get Started . . .**

With the manufacturing intelligence dashboards offered in SAP Manufacturing, your production employees can have the visibility into plant operations needed to increase responsiveness and performance. Dashboards can empower shop-floor decision makers to act quickly and accurately, keeping your manufacturing operations in step with customers – and ahead of the competition.

To find out how manufacturing intelligence dashboards – and SAP Manufacturing – can help your company succeed in a fast-moving industry, visit [www.sap.com/manufacturing](http://www.sap.com/manufacturing)

[www.sap.com/contactsap](http://www.sap.com/contactsap)

THE BEST-RUN BUSINESSES RUN SAP



50 070 264 (04/09) Printed in USA.

© 2004 by SAP AG. All rights reserved. SAP, R/3, mySAP, mySAP.com, xApps, xApp, SAP NetWeaver, and other SAP products and services mentioned herein as well as their respective logos are trademarks or registered trademarks of SAP AG in Germany and in several other countries all over the world. All other product and service names mentioned are the trademarks of their respective companies. Data contained in this document serves informational purposes only. National product specifications may vary. Printed on environmentally friendly paper. These materials are subject to change without notice. These materials are provided by SAP AG and its affiliated companies ("SAP Group") for informational purposes only, without representation or warranty of any kind, and SAP Group shall not be liable for errors or omissions with respect to the materials. The only warranties for SAP Group products and services are those that are set forth in the express warranty statements accompanying such products and services, if any. Nothing herein should be construed as constituting an additional warranty.