

Integrated software - specifically for manufacturers

EXO Business is an ERP financial software solution including quoting, bill of materials, materials ordering and job cost as well as optional modules for employee resources, CRM, asset management and payroll. Empower is a powerful time tracking and job scheduling software – using secondhand PCs on the factory floor. EXO Business and Empower have been working together on manufacturing client sites for three years now and provide one strong seamless integrated solution for manufacturers. This article by Sean O’Sullivan, Empower, also profiles EXO Business and Empower integrating to other industry specific design, cost and materials optimisation software such as 3D, Pro100, Cabinet Vision, Pytha and V6.

EXO Business Software

EXO Business originally known as Exo-net is owned by MYOB and is its Enterprise Solution package. Focusing on stock control and job costing along with core financial strength, it is well suited to a wide variety of manufacturing industries. EXO Business was developed in Delphi 2007 with a MSSQL database engine meaning that it has an open database, which enables quick and effective custom development and is well suited to medium and larger sized companies. With EXO Business, manufacturers can achieve paperless invoicing from suppliers and will update and report creditors ledger information on Suppliers dispatch.

EXO Business will automatically transfer the following information to Empower:

- Order information;
- Product or Process listing;
- Budgeted times per product or process

Empower Software

Empower is a job and staff time tracking and job scheduling software package developed for a wide variety of custom product and standard product manufacturers including kitchen and cabinet manufacturers, shop fitters, timber joiners, window manufacturers and furniture manufacturers. Empower uses secondhand PCs on the factory floor for assigning jobs to factory staff and having staff log onto and off all jobs live. Staff see their budgeted and actual times live and production management see all jobs progressing and also live job status reporting. Empower will also report for example the productivity of each staff member each day and each week. This software is used primarily by production managers and will substantially increase production and factory productivity. Empower have eight years of proven track record of achieving substantial gains in factory productivity and profit for their client base of manufacturers. Across 123 manufacturing clients over nine years the average increase in factory productivity is 47%.

Empower will automatically transfer the following information to EXO Business:

- Hours worked by factory staff for payroll;
- Hours worked by on site workers for payroll – using cell

phone texting of day start / end and each job start / end (live reporting);

- Hours worked on each project or job for job cost (exact live hours – not hours ‘made up’ by staff and needing manual data input).

Industry specific design cost Software – linking to EXO Business and Empower

The following manufacturing industries use very product specific software to design, cost, and optimise their product. This software can link where necessary to Exo and Empower.

Manufacturing Industries	Design, Cost, Optimisation Software
Kitchens, shop fit outs, commercial furniture	3D Design
	Pro 100
	20 / 20
	IMOS
	QSL / Quisine
	Cabinet Vision
	Pytha
Postform bench tops (front end, optimisation, machine code, bar coding)	Ardis / Aspan by R41 Ltd
Panel optimisation	Idacs, NCad
Timber stairs	Stairbiz
Timber trusses	Pryda
Timber windows and doors	Woodman Windowmaker
Aluminium windows and doors	V6

The industry specific software options above can transfer the following information into either EXO Business or Empower:

- Order information;
- Bill of materials;
- Job listing per process;
- Budgeted time per process ●