

Maprak increases factory productivity by 105%

Maprak manufactures a wide range of white boards for the corporate and education markets, is based in Adelaide, S.A. and employs ten factory staff. Michael Curley, GM and production manager, Bruno Di Maria explain.

Michael and Bruno said: "We put second hand PCs on our factory floor and purchased time tracking and labour management software eighteen months ago. It is amazing the production levels we now get through our factory each week. Also it is amazing how consistently we maintain staff and factory production and productivity with a 5% only variation – day in day out."

According to Michael and Bruno, the main reasons for the high level of production gains include:

1. factory staff are now aware of budgeted times on jobs, which they see on the factory PC screens before

they log on and start each job;

2. factory staff are aware of their actual times they have complete their jobs 'live' when they log off to finish each job;

3. factory staff have to log onto downtime jobs and are, therefore, aware of the need to keep their downtime and unaccounted time to a minimum

4. factory staff view their individual Empower Software production and productivity reports weekly, showing their performance and highlighting areas needing focus, which is provided with each payslip;

5. as a result of 1, 2, 3,

and 4 above, factory staff are a lot more accountable for all the time in their working day;

6. individual factory staff receive a \$20 or \$40 bonus each week if they meet their individual target productivity figures for capping their total downtime and meeting and beating times on their manufacturing jobs;

7. the competitive nature of the human spirit – factory staff wanting to better than their work mates' productivity figures. "We remember working on the floor ourselves many years ago when we had the same urge to show up our work mates with our higher productivity," said Bruno.

8. as GM and production manager they both view jobs and times live on Empower. In doing so they "see everything" and nothing passes under their radar;

9. seeing issues on the factory floor as they arise, so they are addressed immediately. This allows them to be much more proactive and sort production and productivity issues out quickly.

"In summary, PCs on the factory floor with

time tracking and labour management software is the ultimate production management tool for two reasons," they said. "Firstly, it allows factory staff to be highly efficient at managing their own jobs and times and secondly, it allows us, as owners and managers, to monitor live production then drive our production.

"The interesting thing is that, back when we put this software in, we thought that our factory was already productive. Now looking back on it clearly, our factory was far from productive. If back then someone had said to us: "we can increase your factory productivity by 105%" we would have thought they had rocks in their head and we would never have believed them – because back then it was not remotely conceivable. Now we know precisely the maximum daily productivity of each of our staff and the overall production our factory should and does achieve.

"Peppertree Furniture, here in Adelaide, is a very large professional commercial furniture manufacturer. It is owned by a very astute operator

> 76



< 75



who thought his factory was productive – until he purchased PCs for his factory floor and Empower time tracking software and,

like us, drove an increase in his factory productivity by well over 100%.

“There are some 30 manufacturers of kitchens,

cabinets, commercial furniture, interior fit outs in South Australia who use Empower Software and who have also made substantial factory productivity increases using PCs on their factory floor and time tracking software. We spoke to quite a few of them before installing the system, which certainly was reassuring. It was also very useful that Empower has a local manager here in SA, Brendan Hanna, who has been in manufacturing for many years.

“Sarajane Furniture, Australia’s largest and most progressive solid timber furniture manufacturer, based in Cowra NSW, has recently

implemented Empower Software, which certainly says something about the quality and benefits of the software,” they said.

Empower Software is a great tool for making you highly productive and highly profitable. It is a great tool for making Australian manufacturers more efficient, so we can make and sell Australian Made – and in doing so, help curb, or better still stop, the masses of imported goods into Australia.

“Any Australian manufacturer, other than our competitors, are welcome to phone us and visit our factory to see this system working.” ●

Doing the work for you

Solid Setup is a company that provides cabinet makers with database solutions for its Cabinet Vision software and is committed to database development requirements.

Solid Setup has developed over 100 packages that have been designed to make design and manufacturing process faster, easier and more accurate. Solid Setup has been working closely with Blum, Hettich, Hafele, Harn, Samet and more, to incorporate their best selling hardware systems into Cabinet Vision

so that cabinet makers don’t have to. This includes all the main drawer systems, hinge catalogues and even door lift-up systems.

There are also many other solutions available, such as advanced screw and cam systems, handle positioning, shelf hole control, fingerpulls, rail control, hinge position overrides, toe frame editing, mullion construction, cabinet joining systems, and so on.

To make things easy, they have created www.solidsetup.com, showcasing solutions

for database requirements. Some of the packages can be purchased, downloaded and installed directly from the online shop. The rest can be installed remotely by their technicians.

“Our packages are designed with easy to access “attributes” to give you more control over your detailing, and many of our UCS’s have user editable settings so that you can choose the option that suit your business,” a company spokesperson explained.

“Solid Setup was founded on the idea that cabinet

makers are not programmers. We believe that Cabinet Vision is the best Cabinet Making software available. This is why we have built a business setting up Cabinet Vision for users around the world with our database solutions.”

With decades of cabinet making experience, Solid Setup knows that cabinet makers need to keep development costs to a minimum. Their programming is tested onsite prior being released, and is ready for deployment. ●

A promotional banner for Castella Architectural Cabinetware. On the left is the logo, which consists of the word "castella" in white lowercase letters inside a blue oval, with "architectural cabinetware" written in smaller white lowercase letters below it. To the right of the logo, the website address "www.castella.net.au" is displayed in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Below the website address, the phone number "Phone: 1800 061 787" is shown in a smaller white font. On the far right, there is a white starburst graphic containing the text "New website" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the banner, the text "castella | inspirational architectural cabinetware" is written in a small, white, lowercase font.