

Autobend and Empower Workshop Productivity & Scheduling Software - Case Study

(Christchurch and Auckland, New Zealand)(3/7/2020)

Empower Manufacturing and Engineering Software - Using Tablets on Your Workshop Floor. For progressive Joiners, Engineers and Other Manufacturers



"Our factory staff have transformed the way they approach their jobs. Previously our factory staff did not know the budgeted time expected of them at start of each job and they did not know actual time at job completion, therefore they did not know when they needed to focus to improve their job times.

Now our factory staff do know the budgeted time at start of

each job and they know the actual time at job completion."

Core Products Manufactured (or Core Business)	We have four business focusses across two engineering shop floors, in Christchurch and Auckland, including: 1 sheet metal laser cutting 2 custom vehicle exhaust systems fabrication 3 tube component fabrication and general engineering
% Production is custom made - one off designs (each job different to the last)	90% or more of our production is custom one off jobs.
Any Key Background Information	Hold a bachelors Degree, a Double Major in: Project Management and Operations & Production Management
# Factory Floor Staff	20 in total
# Total Staff	25 in total
Annual Revenue (approx)	Confidential. Our monthly revenue continues to increase significantly as we continue to get our labour times down and weekly production up
Factory and Office Size m2	Christchurch 2000 sq metres ??? Auckland 600 square metres???
# of CNCs	We have 11 computer numerically controlled (CNCs) machines in total
Geography Serviced	We supply clients nationwide from both our bases in Auckland, North Island and Christchurch, South Island
Staff Times on Jobs Recording prior to Empower	Manual system reliant on factory staff's memory at day end. This system provided highly inaccurate information which management received at earliest a day after production occurred which was too late. This information was poor and of little use and hardly worth time and cost to collate.
Scheduling Prior to Empower	I ran an Excel spreadsheet to try and schedule which required a lot of my time: manually assessing job status on the work shop floor, manually recording that status then going to the office to manually enter all into Excel. Schedule on Excel was not current most of the time and not accurate. Scheduling on Excel also did not show us or factor for any factory capacity which was a main drawback. In contrast Empower Scheduling is always live and accurate and requires little work. I can view our schedule on Empower when on the road selling which for me is a major advantage
Years in Business	20
Staff Groups Tracked on Empower	All work shop staff
Associations and any positions held	Canterbury Manufacturers Association (CMA)
Year we started using Empower	Over 2 years. We started using Empower Software February 2018
# PCs or tablets on the Factory Floor with Empower on	In Christchurch we have 6 tablets on the factory floor in Auckland we currently only have 1 tablet and will increase this to 3
# Of our Managers using Empower	Myself and two other managers
Estimated Productivity Gains using Empower	25 to 30% reduction in job times and labour cost on jobs. We are confident that job times and labour cost on jobs will continue to reduce the more we use the system. We now get jobs done faster and more efficiently.

What we have witnessed about Empower Factory Productivity & Scheduling Software

1. Our factory staff have transformed the way they approach their jobs. Previously our factory staff did know the budgeted time expected of them at start of each job and they did not know actual time at job

completion, therefore they did not know when they needed to focus to improve their job times. Now our factory staff do know the budgeted time at start of each job and they know the actual time at job completion.

2. Our factory staff have all “stepped up to the plate” and using their factory floor tablets and their Empower screens and ion doing so they have achieved the majority of the reduction in job times and productivity gains themselves.
3. Empower provides the system which enables us to plan and drive production and productivity.
4. Our overtime used to total 40 hours per week on average has now been eliminated. That is, we now get the same work out the factory door each week in our standard hours.
5. Our Downtime and Unaccounted time has reduced by approximately 2 hours per staff member per week, which across 20 factory staff totalled 40 hours Downtime and Unaccounted time per week. 40 hours less Downtime and Unaccounted time per week creates 40 hours more production and chargeable time per week at \$80 per hour charge out is \$3,200 more revenue per week.
6. Our quoting accuracy is critically important to our profitability. Empower accurately reports the history of actual to budgeted times on each and all jobs and down to task level including listing of the factory staff involved which enables us to;
7. Gain the necessary insight into budgeted labour time and actual times taken on and the likely reasons for variations and over runs
8. We identify our quoting mistakes of our labour time and rectify them
9. We identify our production issues impacting our labour time and rectify them
10. We learn from 1,2 & 3 above and continuously improve the budgeted labour time in our quoting
11. Empower is a powerful system which has all the standard production and productivity reports and screens we possibly need, there are well over 200 reports and over 50 screens.
12. Empower reports hard data, data that is accurate to the minute to Job and down to Task level. Conversations with factory staff about job times and performance is now very easy and very productive as both the budgeted and achieved times reported are accurate and live.
13. Empower’s new scheduling module is very effective. I can production plan and capacity plan quickly, easily and accurately. Factory staff confirming task & job started and task and job completed auto updates the Empower schedule in real time. All other scheduling software I have seen has required manual recording of job status and manual updated of job progress in the scheduling software which is very time consuming and means that the schedule is not live and accurate.
14. Autobend would never go back to our old system of manual job assignment and manual job tracking as it would mean going back to “the dark ages” of; poor planning, poor control, slower times on jobs and poorer factory productivity.
15. Empower is invaluable for remotely viewing live production and job times of our Auckland factory floor from our offices in Christchurch

Empower was easy to put into our business, it is low cost weekly subscription, and the weekly production gains, financial gains and return on investment are all very high.

Please feel free to phone me to discuss anything above

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Please forward this email to someone you know who owns or is management in any Joinery, Engineering or other Manufacturing business throughout Australia or New Zealand. Particularly to those people and businesses who might be struggling to manage their jobs and their labour or struggling to retain previous or expected profit levels.