

Johnson and Couzins & Empower Factory Productivity & Job Scheduling Software - Case Study

(Christchurch & Auckland, New Zealand)(06/09/2016)

Empower - For progressive Joiners, Engineers and Other Manufacturers.



"We have achieved a 20% increase in our factory productivity using Empower Factory Productivity & Job Scheduling Software"

Core Products Manufactured (or Core Business)	Unique range of retractable aluminium louver, awnings and shade systems for residential and commercial projects
% Production is custom made - one off designs (each job different to the last)	100% is custom one off manufacture. We manufacture in batch sizes of 1. All our jobs are quoted. All our product is made to each client's specifications and site measurements.
Any Key Background Information	I have had a 35 year career in production management. I have formal

	qualifications in Lean manufacturing and two Masters Degrees in Management. During my interview for this role I advised the owners of Empower Software and that it was a necessary tool to allow me to do my job and transform the business's factory productivity
# Factory Floor Staff	45
# Total Staff	55
Annual Revenue (approx)	Confidential, but \$7 to \$10 million per year range
Factory and Office Size m2	Christchurch and Auckland jointly total 2000 square metres
# of CNCs	Two CNC machines
Geography Serviced	New Zealand, nationwide
Staff Times on Jobs Recording prior to Empower	Nothing
Years in Business	15 years plus
Associations and any positions held	Members of Master Joiners and Future Proof Building.
Staff Groups Tracked on Empower	Initially all our factory staff in both Christchurch and Auckland factories. Then our pre production staff and our installation teams in both Christchurch and Auckland will be tracked on Empower
Years using Empower	2016
# PCs on the Factory Floor with Empower on	Christchurch 3 and Auckland 2
# Of our Managers using Empower	5
Estimated Productivity Gains using Empower	From my experience of Empower Software over 10 years including use of Empower at my previous production management role I am confident we will increase our output and factory productivity by 20% to 40%. For our delivery and site staff I would not be surprised if we increase our output and productivity by up to 100%. PS Using Empower in my previous production management role we increased factory productivity by 20% within 1 month

Using Empower Factory Productivity & Job Scheduling Software we will get Factory Productivity Gains from the following areas of our business

1. Live track and trace reporting of our materials and product completion status and location between Christchurch and Auckland
2. Live reporting of current job status through pre production, factory and installers on site
3. Knowledge of componentry packs and job packs being 100% complete on planned due date for our installers to install jobs as planned
4. Our factory staff stepping up to the plate and monitoring and managing to meet their own budgeted times on their jobs themselves

Overview

Johnson and Couzins are growing substantially each quarter. Empower will allow us to monitor and manage our growth.

Empower Software will allow us to deliver on our customer promises, regarding delivery dates.

Our Lean Manufacturing key performance indicators are tracked and reported on Empower to maximise daily productivity of our three teams, namely pre production staff, our factory staff and installers.

Empower's cloud technology allows all our management and administration staff in both Christchurch and Auckland to view live production, productivity and job status information in on our respective PCs, phones or tablets which will be invaluable.

Empower will track and reports on our DIFOT% (Delivered in Full on Time) to our clients. Empower also tracks and reports our Internal DIFOT% which is the number and percentage of our jobs delivered in full on time from each work station to the next station within our business.

Empowers Job Scheduling carries out five main functions, namely:

1. assesses our daily and weekly staff capacity
2. plans our daily and weekly jobs and underlying tasks to each of our work centres
3. allows us to drag and drop jobs and tasks around in the calendar
4. reports our due by dates for each job and each underlying task
5. highlights in pink the tasks that are late today and green the tasks that must be finished today. Both factory staff and all management see pink and green jobs in all screens

Empower Job Scheduling is quick and easy to use, accurate and in summary is a phenomenal tool.

I have NZ Qualification in Lean Manufacturing and have fully adopted Lean Manufacturing to very good effect in all production roles I have held over 7 years to date. Here at Johnson and Couzin we will track and report on all areas of our Lean Manufacturing performance on Empower. Without Empower Software it would not be possible to track our Lean Manufacturing performance.

I like many other of Empower's manufacturing clients proactively push development of our requested improvements of the software, with regular meetings and phone calls with the owners of Empower and rest of the development team. Many Empower clients are progressive and leaders in our respective manufacturing industries and geographic areas, clearly the adopters of technology committed to driving productivity. With 180 plus manufacturing clients using Empower Software and the group of Empower's business consultant partners contributing to development requests the net result is a lot of new ideas and software improvements every week. Empower's policy of client requested developments being free and all software development 'going into the boiling pot' and sent to all clients is great for us and all other clients. Empower are releasing new improved software to me and all clients every fortnight which is quite staggering and very helpful. In the last 3 years since Empower Cloud has been commercially available development has progressed in leaps and bounds. It is also highly valuable to me to pick up the phone and discuss our manufacturing issues with the owners of Empower Software who themselves are highly experienced in all facets of manufacturing I am confident that within 2 to 3 months of implementation Empower Software will reduce our labour times and labour costs on jobs and it will reduce our average lead time from 10 weeks to 5 weeks.

Anyone is welcome to phone me to discuss Empower

John Segalla
General Manager Auckland
Jonson and Couzins
+64 21 157 4431

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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.