

# Rata Industries & Empower Job Scheduling & Factory Productivity Software Case Study

(Timaru, New Zealand) (20/04/2016)

Empower - For progressive Joiners, Engineers and Other Manufacturers.



***"We witnessed a 40% increase in our factory productivity within the first 3 months... a colleague running another manufacturing business heard we had Empower and phoned me to seek my advice. I***

***respectfully advised him at the end of our conversation "you would me mad not to put Empower in as it certainly does work". This colleague followed my advice and put in Empower and I know he too has secured substantial increases in his factory productivity and is very happy with it"***

Core Products Manufactured (or Core Business)	Engineering and manufacturing of a wide range of agricultural equipment
% Production is custom made - one off designs (each job different to the last)	
Any Key Background Information	When we considered Empower prior to purchasing and we did our due diligence we visited three manufacturers using it and then phoned three more manufacturers using it. The consensus was that Empower was a very effective factory productivity tool and everyone was happy with it.
# Factory Floor Staff	15
# Total Staff	22
Annual Revenue (approx)	\$5 to \$10 million range
Factory and Office Size m2	4,000 square metres
# of CNCs	1 Robot
Geography Serviced	Nationwide
Staff Times on Jobs Recording prior to Empower	Job cards were used where we advised staff of the budgeted time per process and factory staff were supposed to confirm actual time taken. Factory staff were not diligent in recording times taken so this system recorded times which were largely incorrect
Years in Business	30 Plus
Associations and any Awards	
Staff Groups Tracked on Empower	All our factory staff
Years using Empower	4 years to date (we started using Empower in 2012)
# PCs on the Factory Floor with Empower on	7
# Of our Managers using Empower	5
Estimated Productivity Gains using Empower	We witnessed a 40% increase in our factory productivity within the first 3 months

**Key Points we have found Empower Job Scheduling & Factory Productivity Software:**

**Factory Staff considerations:**

1. Transparency of individual factory staff times on jobs has brought total accountability to all factory staff. This has generated the substantial increase in our factory productivity
2. Providing each factory staff member with their weekly productivity reports outlining their performance with jobs and times on all down times proved to make a big improvement in output and productivity. Our factory staff really appreciated the weekly feedback and stepped up to the challenge
3. From the early weeks of using Empower our factory staff did compete with themselves comparing their weekly productivity

**Management considerations:**

1. Putting in Empower into our business was relatively easy. We staged this so factory staff logged in and out of work for the day start/end and smokos and lunch for 4 weeks, then we added jobs on the job list for factory staff to log start and finished on.

2. We took up the option engaging a one of Empower's authorised production management experts to assess our factory processes and advise us on set up options of Empower. We engaged David Lawrence from Lean Manufacturing and he was invaluable to us, I recommend everyone use David as we did. Also his rate was very affordable at \$50 an hour so we engaged David for 20 hours to complete the job.
3. Empower Software's new cloud system is great. I make good use of monitoring our production and productivity when out of the factory using my phone/laptop.
4. We plan to put up 50 inch TV screens in our office and factory to show Empower's key production and productivity reporting. This will bring further heightened transparency, accountability and factory productivity increases
5. Using Empower accurate productivity reporting for individual factory staff is valuable to myself as production manager and valuable to factory staff when we discuss performance reviews and wages
6. Empower has a new scheduling system which sounds great and we will assess and likely use shortly
7. We track all rework and all other forms of downtime by each factory staff member. This keeps Downtime right down and productive hours right up
8. An interesting example on our factory floor just after we put in Empower Software which I believe indicates what Empower is all about. I had one of our operators see their individual productivity report for the week and approach me not happy about their individual performance, the staff member advised me that he felt he could not meet the 95% productivity goal for that machine. I asked the staff member why he felt he could not meet it. The response was that the machine was faulty. I asked the staff member to investigate the machine with me and we found the fault which was simply a faulty air line which we fixed for \$40 which then allowed the operator to achieve the 95% goal, which allowed substantial additional production from that work centre daily. Neither the factory staff member or I would have investigated the machine fault, therefore we both would have accepted continuing low productivity from the machine centre, unless Empower's accurate productivity reporting to the work centre.

Empower in summary, a colleague running another manufacturing business heard we had Empower and phoned me to seek my advice. I respectfully advised him at the end of our conversation "you would me mad not to put Empower in as it certainly does work". This colleague followed my advice and put in Empower and I know he too has secured substantial increases in his factory productivity and is very happy with it.

We are very happy with the Empower system and would not be without it. Anyone is welcome to phone me to ask any questions.

Bert Walton  
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**PLEASE FORWARD THIS EMAIL TO A COLLEAGUE IN NEED OF HIGH  
FACTORY PRODUCTIVITY**

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.