



Scheduling made easy.

IET worked with Mueller Plastics to develop a program that took the guesswork out of scheduling.

The Customer

Mueller Plastics is the plastics division of Mueller Industries and is a leading manufacturer of plastic drain waste and vent fittings, pressure fittings and valves used in the housing industry.

The Challenge

The weekly production scheduling process was inefficient and ineffective, taking 3-4 days a week to schedule 900 molds across 52 injection molding presses. Scheduling was often done on an ad-hoc basis and relied upon the intuition and judgment of the scheduler.

The result of this process was unnecessary setups and unscheduled downtime. The customer needed an easy-to-use tool for assigning molds to presses in a way that maximized shop productivity.

The Solutions

IET developed a database model that allowed the manufacturer to schedule tools across primary and alternate presses with minimal setups. It also allowed them to anticipate and plan mold changes, analyze tool usage and report on productivity, machine utilization, production, scrap and rework.

Weekly production scheduling time was reduced from 3-4 days to 30 minutes per week. The customer eliminated the full-time scheduler position and made the shift supervisor responsible for the scheduling process. Setup time was reduced by an average of 15 percent annually and the on-time delivery rate improved to 99.8 percent.

Update

The database model was later updated to allow the user to export the schedule in a format to be used with their new automated production monitoring system.

“This scheduling and planning program puts the decision-making information in the hands of the people who can use it effectively.”

Plant Manager

iet

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How can IET help you?

Any way you need us to.

Productivity

Current production standards

Current production performance

Detailed reasons for variances

Detailed plan for improvement

Goal-setting, accountability

Capacity planning

Key capital resources

Direct and indirect labor

Salaried personnel

Facilities

Support

New manufacturing

Detailed process map

Layout

Facilities

Labor

Support

Indirect labor design

Standards

Material handling

Supervision

Maintenance

Plan for improvement

Total value analysis

Make vs. buy

Site selection

Consolidation

Vertical integration

Horizontal integration