

Pharmaceutical Manufacturer Increases Productivity by 11% with Shoplogix™ Plantnode®



CASE STUDY

81%

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

11%

PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT

MANUFACTURER

This manufacturer is one of the largest producers of generic pharmaceuticals employing over 6,000 employees in research, development, manufacturing and distribution facilities worldwide.

GOAL

The principal goal for this manufacturer was to improve production performance on their bottling lines. The manufacturer realized the key to achieving their goal was to automate data collection and increase visibility into production. This would enable the company to identify root causes of downtime on the line, have timely and reliable information with which to take action and measure performance accurately.

CHALLENGE

Like most pharmaceutical manufacturers, the company had a manual production monitoring system that was a source of data inaccuracy and significant variability.

The immediate challenge was to eliminate manual processes, set new standards for efficiency and establish a reliable measure of manufacturing performance.

SOLUTION

Faced with intense competitive pressures and capacity constraints, this pharmaceutical manufacturer looked to Shoplogix's real-time performance management solution Plantnode, to help reduce the impact of increasing costs and shrinking margins.

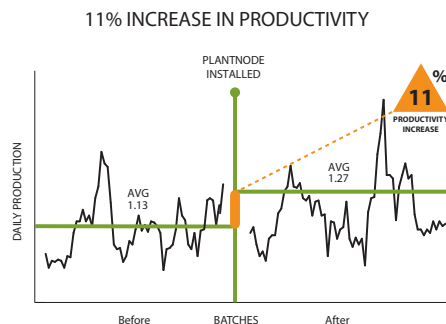
Automating the company's ability to track production in order to collect, manage and analyze data was the critical first step to increasing the accuracy, granularity and reliability of production data. Scanning job specific information and downtime reasons eliminated the need for manual entry and made it easier for operators to do their jobs.



Measuring Performance on Complete, Accurate and Reliable Information

Critical Insight Leads to Productivity Gains

Detailed real-time production reports revealed brief but frequent instances of downtime. "Once we were automated, we gained insight into a series of stoppages on the filling line that we had no visibility into before. With our manual tracking system we only recorded downtime that was deemed significant, so events under 10 minutes weren't tracked", stated the Plant Manager. With the level of detail Plantnode provided, the company was able to identify and eliminate unnecessary stoppages during production. As a result, the company gained an additional 70 minutes per day on one filling line and increased overall productivity by 11 percent.



In 2 months, the manufacturer increased productivity by 11% on the filling line.

Staying on Track

Real-time information visible on LED display boards allowed employees to focus their efforts on areas that needed attention. If production was slipping, employees were able to take preventative action before it impacted production schedules. The Operator remarked, "Plantnode helped us keep on track. We knew if we were going hit our targets or if we were going to miss the mark. Automatic alerts and notifications were also in place as a fail-safe measure. So if schedules were at risk, we were in a position to do something about it before it turned into a problem". Web-based reporting made data highly accessible to hourly employees, supervisors, and management providing the flexibility to view and analyze detailed production information at any time.



In less than 3 months, the manufacturer realized an ROI of 81 percent.

Validation

The Plant Manager added, "Validation was another key consideration during our evaluation. In this industry we always need to bear that in mind. Because Plantnode was completely isolated from the controls of our

machines and only required external signals to acquire data, no validation was required".

Within days Plantnode was installed and the results were immediate. According to the VP of Packaging Operations, "The improvements we realized were quick and dramatic. Plantnode had a direct impact on our production line - within 86 days, it paid for itself".

86 DAYS
payback

The results were quick and dramatic. Plantnode paid for itself in 86 days.

CONCLUSION

Shoplogix helped this pharmaceutical manufacturer improve performance on their bottling lines by streamlining their production processes through automation and driving manufacturing efficiency with real-time reliable information. As a result, the company increased productivity, set new standards for efficiency and gained critical visibility into production operations. The Plant Manager concluded, "We can now accurately measure performance and base our decisions on complete, accurate and reliable information".

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