



CASE STUDY

LP Building Solutions reduces downtime and cuts costs with Infor CloudSuite EAM

With more than 45 years as an industry leader in award-winning, innovative, premium engineered wood products, LP Building Solutions set out to transform its corporate culture, empowering employees to improve operations and increase revenues. Doing so required prioritizing Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) to optimize asset performance and cut expensive, unplanned downtime.

Uniting a global company behind a single EAM approach

Already one of the world's top manufacturers of high-quality, value-added building materials in 2014, LP Building Solutions was ready to make the shift to a continuous improvement model in its asset management program. That meant taking a close look at its maintenance management system.

“Of the 20 plants that piloted this software, not one of them preferred our former solution over Infor. Across a variety of EAM functions, Infor CloudSuite EAM was the most user-friendly. In fact, our teams all said there was no way they could use the previous product once they knew what EAM could do.”

BOB CARNES

EAM IT Manager, LP Building Solutions



Headquarters

Nashville, TN

2019 revenue

US \$2.3 billion

Industry

Manufacturing

Employees

5,000

Infor product

Infor CloudSuite™ EAM

Plants

26 plants in U.S., Canada, and South America

Website

lpcorp.com

With 26 plants across the United States, Canada, and South America, finding a single EAM product capable of generating enthusiastic support and true utility across the entire enterprise was a tall order. But that was the goal: To gain buy-in from the people in each plant who would use EAM every day to track inventory, carry out preventive and predictive maintenance, and in so doing, optimize asset performance and keep costs in check.

Charting a path toward optimal OEE

Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) is one of many key performance indicators that businesses like LP use to quickly understand if a given piece of equipment is performing optimally or not. Calculated by multiplying asset availability by asset performance by product quality, organizations can use the product of these variables to keep equipment running when it should, how it should, and in the safest manner possible—as it was designed. Any dramatic deviations in OEE help operators, maintainers, and engineers know that a problem with that equipment is imminent, thus allowing them to take action before a costly event occurs.

The first step for LP was to create a charter that defined the scope of the changes being considered, identified stakeholders, articulated objectives, and established authorities. Next, the company assembled a team responsible for evaluating EAM products and services with personnel from all operational divisions, including corporate maintenance, material, IT, and ERP support.

To ensure that true functionality would be at the heart of the EAM adoption, the team turned to asset managers at each plant to help define business requirements. All 20 plants identified key processes and capabilities they would need to optimize asset performance and improve overall equipment efficiency.

Business results and efficiencies

- Enhanced reporting in 14 key maintenance management areas
- Single-system efficiency across 20+ plants
- Enthusiastic reception of the new EAM system by the users that piloted it

Asset managers at each plant identified 14 key areas where they would need precise controls and capabilities—everything from asset and work management to procurement, calibration, and materials management. They would need the ability to manage alerts and inspections, create barcodes, generate reports, and conduct reliability analysis and planning. Then, members of corporate maintenance, IT, and EAM IT, along with plant asset managers, rated and weighted their current usage.

Comparing capabilities reveals a clear choice

Infor CloudSuite EAM demonstrated more business functionality and greater out-of-the-box reporting capabilities. Evaluators at every plant found that Infor's solution required fewer clicks and screens. The software made it easier to view inventory and use dataspies to extract data to spreadsheets and share it with operational management. And CloudSuite EAM offered more flexibility to generate requisitions and project management work orders.

“Our VP wanted the decision about which asset management program to use to come from the operational side instead of IT, since they were the ones who'd use it hands-on.”

BOB CARNES
EAM IT Manager, LP Building Solutions

Expanding the framework for the future

On the recommendation of the evaluation team, LP Building Solutions adopted Infor CloudSuite EAM for use in its U.S. and Canadian plants. LP's South American facilities are also slated for EAM adoption in the near future.

In 2020 and beyond, the company reports that it will continue reducing manufacturing costs through reliability-focused improvements in OEE initiatives. Plans are underway to move the on-premises program to the cloud.

Business results

20 pilot plants

Across the U.S., Canada, and South America

20 pilot teams

Seasoned asset management professionals

2 EAM applications

Side-by-side, hands-on performance comparison

1 winning product

Infor CloudSuite EAM scored highest in every category at every plant

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