

Fast React Systems - Planning Software Solutions

KDS Garment Industries in Bangladesh Implement Fastreact Enterprise Plus

The Company

KDS Garment Industries Ltd, based in Chittagong, is one of Bangladesh's leading garment exporters, currently producing 20 million pieces per year. The company employs 7000 workers and supplies knit / woven casual wear to leading brands such as AMC Target, Walmart, George, K Mart, Sears, Charming Shoppe etc.

KDS are enjoying the success shared by many of their peers in the booming post quota economy. However, they are fully aware that booms can be short-lived and the reality is that their ongoing success is dependant on continuous improvement and innovation. KDS have been faced with multiple challenges of needing to rapidly increase available capacity, reduce lead times and improve productivity whilst still remaining in control of the business and satisfying their customers ever more challenging demands.

The Challenges

Mr. Prashant Mithare, General Manager of Integrated Planning & Operations comments:

"Though we had an established plan on spread sheets etc., it was not so user friendly and to manage the plan was extremely difficult leading to a lot of fire fighting. We were looking for a system to capture the critical events and to have something which will give the glimpse of the whole plan in one window. When we saw the demo of the Fastreact system, one most prominent thing we noticed was that, unlike other (planning modules in) ERP systems, this is specifically made for production planning & scheduling (for the apparel industry). The planning board is very easy to read, understand and manage. With the Fastreact we don't need computer experts to do the scheduling, just someone who follows basic planning disciplines."

The Solution

Mr. Mithare commented on the implementation process

"It was very user friendly.... it took us two days to create the masters and then by the next hour it was in operation and we were online with Fastreact"

The Conclusion

Mr. Mithare explains the benefits to date.

"The main operational benefit is that one can easily see the whole picture of the plan on one screen which makes it easy to plan so as to reduce the product changes / set up time thus helping the company to improve efficiency by reducing downtime. The critical path helps in keeping track of the critical events to see and tackle issues before they come as a surprise!"

Mr. Salim Rahman, Group Director Comments :

" In today's context, the speed to market is extremely important. With delivery lead time & margins, shrinking day by day, the manufacturing processes need to operate at the highest possible efficiency level. Fastreact is a tool for proper planning and provides vital information for decision making. The elimination of manual calculation helps our planners to utilize their time better. Fastreact helped us in proper product allocation in units while planning".

Fastreact Asia's MD, Simon Gibson, comments *"In the new garment powerhouse countries such as India & Bangladesh, despite the plentiful supply of low cost labour, the progressive manufacturers realise that it is essential they use proven apparel specific solutions rather than making do with manual tools. There is no time for experimenting, when buyers will only establish long term partnerships with suppliers who can continue to improve and rise to the challenge of shorter lead times, 100% on time deliveries and competitive pricing."*



KDS Group

User Verdict ...

- Easy to use

The Results

- Reduction in the setup time
- Better Scheduling
- Proper allocation of product mix
- Reduced Downtime, less fire-fighting
- Ability to see and tackle issues before they come as a surprise!

The Benefits

- Direct financial gains to company
- Facilitation in the decision making on vital issues related to business plans



Mr. Salim Rahman, Group Director:
"If used fully, the investment in Fastreact is paid off in a few months"

www.kdsgroup.net

To find out more about how Fast React Systems can help your business, contact:

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What Our Customers Say About Fastreact

Quantum (UK)

"Fastreact provides improved visibility, flexibility and responsiveness, support the decision making process and enable us to generate achievable plans".

Carl Pate, Finance Director

Fogarty (UK)

"Direct, operational cost savings include an immediate £80K Sterling per annum saving, in addition to significant reductions in stock levels. Assisted by Fastreact the planning team are now able to challenge stock policies and forward requirements. Further reductions are anticipated in the coming months."

Stewart MacDonald, Logistics Director

Slimma (UK)

"We have been a satisfied user of Fastreact for a number of years. It has enabled us to remain competitive in our very difficult market. The new highly visual system will build on the firm foundation that we have created in our business. It will enable us to work closer with our suppliers and react quickly to our customer requirements".

Chris Heath, Director

Dewhirst (UK)

"Fastreact has enabled the closer coordination of functions within the business and this has facilitated a better materials planning process. This has directly resulted in the stockholding on materials being reduced by 40-50% (25-30 days stockholding down to an average of 15 days), at the same time as improving the raw material availability to the production floor. Fastreact was surprisingly easy to install, and we have been very impressed with robustness and functionality provided by the software. Given the Fastreact pedigree we expected a good planning system, but the flexibility and control provided by the Fastreact Critical Path system was an unexpected bonus."

Glen Walker, Finance Director

VT Garment Co. Ltd (Thailand)

"We selected Fastreact as it met all our requirements for a powerful planning tool, providing a garment industry specific solution that addressed and integrated the key planning areas of factory capacity and critical path not covered by our ERP business system. (Fastreact) has enabled us to make real improvements in On Time Delivery and reductions in air freight. I would have no hesitation to recommend Fastreact to other factories. If used correctly they should get a return on investment within 12 months."

Khun Orasri Lotharukpong, Deputy Managing Director

Australian Country Spinners (Australia)

"Overall, the company has achieved greater flexibility and speed of response. Successful order completion against target in 2004 were 10% up on 2003. In the areas where the use of Fastreact is most focussed, from the Winding department through the Dyehouse and the Finishing area, lead times and work in progress levels have reduced by over 30% year on year."

Ian Brimblecombe, Manufacturing Services Manager

LT Karle (India)

"Fast React typically quotes a ROI of under one year. However, considering our monthly wage bill, a 2% improvement of our monthly efficiency (by just improving our planning) can provide a ROI under 3-4 months"

Gokal Chittaranjan, Chief Executive—Manufacturing

Integra Apparels and Textiles (India)

"We find that the planning board is the most used feature at our facility since it enables us to quickly and accurately plan and re-plan processes, besides providing a fantastic bird's eye view of all orders simultaneously."

"We expected payback in 18 months time and we are on course to better that."

Krishna Kumar, Chief Executive Officer

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