



Executive Summary

After our company's SupplyPoint system implementation, my job demands shifted from reactive responsibilities for inventory, to proactive activities of inventory analysis.

Case Study

Automatic Software Ordering



Challenges

- Excessive time spent checking individual department tooling needs
- Unsecure inventory tooling
- Catalog ordering



How it helped

When KM TOOL brought the SupplyPoint system into our facility, the vending machine was intended for organizational purposes. Ordering and restocking were still being done manually. The suggestion was made to use the SupplyPoint software for automatic ordering. We started with a vending machine in our milling department, and we then had a second machine installed for our turning department.



Results

We have been involved with the SupplyPoint machines for three to four years, and at first it was as intimidating, not knowing what really to expect. Once we understood the system and what it offered, it was been a time saver. I no longer checked with each department daily to see what needed to be ordered.



The Full Study



Executive Summary

After our company's SupplyPoint system implementation, my job demands shifted from reactive responsibilities for inventory, to proactive activities of inventory analysis. The specific benefits were: Automatic inventory replenishment.

- Better use of my time supporting manufacturing.
- Decrease in safety issues in the plant.
- Overall OSHA compliance.
- Personnel and leadership support.



Challenges

Before the system implementation, excessive time was spent checking each department for its upcoming tooling needs in relation to items we normally stocked. We had no way to accurately inventory our tooling. A tool chest was kept organized, so we could find tools. Also, bins were created with special tooling for specific customers. At that point, parts were searched for in catalogs by part number and then ordered.



How it Helped

When KM TOOL brought the SupplyPoint system into our facility, the vending machine was intended for organizational purposes. Ordering and restocking were still being done manually. The suggestion was made to use the SupplyPoint software for automatic ordering. We started with a vending machine in our milling department, and we then had a second machine installed for our turning department. The SupplyPoint system helped organize and store items in a central location. Additionally, the overall footprint was greatly reduced due to the storage area being condensed into one central location, which opened up space on the shop floor. Automated reports provided traceability by helping all shifts understand what items had been withdrawn — indicating the who, when and which machine to which the item had been issued. The ability to chart this data using reports also enhanced the quoting process to better understand cost drivers in manufacturing.



Results & Return on Investment

We have been involved with the SupplyPoint machines for three to four years, and at first it was intimidating, not knowing what really to expect. Once we understood the system and what it offered, it was been a time saver. I no longer checked with each department daily to see what needed to be ordered. Now I could get a daily e-mail listing what the inventory levels were, how low we were per item, and what had been automatically ordered. Initially hesitant to get involved with SupplyPoint, I now know it was a great move for this company. Less items are being ordered, and the time saved means I can direct my time to more important things like focusing on safety, OSHA and personnel. We've also expanded our machines to have four bays in our milling department, and two bays and a Lista (ECTC) in our turning department. With additional options available, we know there are even more opportunities to further save on the bottom line.