



# Making Headway with Work-In-Process (WIP)

TR Cutler, Inc., May 30, 2006

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*Shoplogix – Real-time Performance Improvements Making Headway with Work-In-Process (WIP)*

PR9.NET May 30, 2006 - Canada, Oakville, ON - According to Steve Celestini, Shoplogix VP Strategy and Chief Technical Officer, "Monitoring work-in-progress increases real-time visibility with automated status notifications on semi-finished goods throughout the production process. Plantnode reduces the likelihood of material shortages, minimizes routing time, and allows for reductions in total inventory."

Without Plantnode

- Best estimates of real-time material consumption rather than actual based on manual inputs
- Purchasing and material handling become aware of material consumption when the supervisor notices stock levels are below the 're-order point'
- Large buffers of inventory in place to minimize stock outs (ex. Increase re-order point)

RESULT:

- Greater probability of unplanned downtime and idle time from stock outs or material shortages
- Dependency on manual processes to increase reporting accuracy

With Plantnode

- Improved Workflow: Minimizes waste between stations or work cells due to better coordination of processes with a clearer understanding of pace and completion times at each independent operation.
- Accurate Production Counts due to real-time monitoring at the machine level allows tracking for 'actual' production rather than best estimates.
- Increased Machine Availability: Accurate monitoring coupled with a clear understanding of the pace of production ensures machine availability for the next stage in production.
- Increased Lead Times: Email alerts are sent to material handling and purchasing to provide advanced notice of material consumption. Reorders are just in time to reduce inventory and eliminate material shortages.
- Accurate Re-ordering: Automated notifications provide the purchasing department with specific re-order requirements and material consumption rates to increase accuracy of re-fill orders with suppliers with the ability to gauge reorders based on anticipated needs.

RESULT:

- Less Probability of Down time and Idle time: Dramatic decrease in lag time between processes for material handling, ordering, and delivery with less chance of line stoppages through email alerts and warnings generated real-time based on actual production.
- Decreased Inventory Carrying Costs due to better inventory management – reduced inventory buffers because of more accurate consumption monitoring and automatic email notifications to increase response times

President and CEO Kevin Dwyer asserts, "Plantnode streamlines work-in-progress and increases efficiency because production no longer stops due to material shortages, less supervision time is required due to automated task monitoring, and total carrying costs are decreased as a result of lower levels of inventory."

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## About TR Cutler, Inc.

Professional Marketing Firm reaching the Manufacturing Community Worldwide

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