

## Real-time data capture integrated with Oracle brings huge cost savings for Cummins



Yorkshire based Cummins Turbo Technologies has a unique business focussed solely on designing medium to heavy-duty diesel engine designs and manufacturing turbochargers for commercial diesel engines.

The company has invested heavily in strategic technologies for product performance, rapid prototype development and project management. All Cummins Turbo Technologies plants worldwide are accredited with the ISO/TS16949:2002 Specification for Automotive Quality Systems and ongoing process improvement is administered by a Six Sigma Program. This demonstrates the company's customer commitment, dedication to continuous quality, process and cost improvement, plus its intent to retain a leading position in the turbocharger market.

### Business Issue

An integral part of Cummins' ISO and Six Sigma initiatives has involved refining workflows across the organisation to minimise machine and people downtime and improve overall efficiency levels across the site. A critical component of this was the implementation of an Oracle ERP system, with an integrated data capture solution to enable the company to fulfil and respond more quickly to evolving customer requirements. In particular, the data capture system selected needed to be quick to implement and easy for users to adopt, preventing any problems with user acceptance. The Cummins factory site is heavily unionised and the workforce could otherwise have regarded hand-held device use as a higher skill level.

### Solution

After reviewing different solutions, Cummins chose BEC to implement a mobile data capture solution and gain real-time inventory control, from receipt to final delivery. Using mobile devices, BEC's solution instantly transfers captured data to the Oracle system, ensuring management information is as accurate and timely as possible.

The wireless network installed at the Huddersfield site utilises hand held terminals and static mount units with tethered scanners. The solution interfaces directly with the Oracle ERP system and real-time updates have meant improved business visibility and the ability to make faster, better informed business decisions.



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**Claire Elsie**

IT Manager

BEC's data capture solution covers the following business areas for Cummins Turbo Technologies:

- Goods receiving and put away
- WIP move and resource usage
- Machine cell completion
- Turbo completion
- Failsafe kitting
- Barcode packing label printing
- Ship pick and confirm
- Container closure & weights and measures
- Add to delivery and advanced shipping notice.

Before starting the project, BECs technical team had developed a thorough understanding of the business processes being automated. System transactions were either based on the existing BEC sequences and customised or created from scratch. BEC also supplied Intermec thermal printer units to produce tracking, product, box and pallet shipping labels.

#### Results

Many organisations implement ERP systems but still maintain their manual data capture processes. This greatly reduces the potential impact of the ERP investment because operators collecting data manually typically make at least 1 error in every 300 keystrokes. In a facility that processes 10,000 order lines a day, this is equivalent to 17,000 data errors every year.

By integrating BEC's automated data capture solution into the host Oracle ERP system, the benefits were apparent immediately, yielding accurate, timely and reliable data. This also increased the efficiency of data entry, reducing the time and cost of managing data in the factory and warehouse.

Claire Elsie, IT manager at Cummins Turbo Technologies said, "Implementing Oracle with BEC's data capture solution has allowed us to improve stock accuracy levels by a further 10% to achieve 98% overall. This is a huge improvement and massive cost saving for a business with stock holdings of approximately £6 million."

Complete, reliable, real-time control of accurate information from across the enterprise lies at the heart of a successful ERP implementation. By planning for and implementing an automated data capture solution into their host Oracle system, Cummins Turbo Technologies achieved increased data integrity, enabling them to make more accurate and timely decisions.

#### In summary: BEC's Added Value

- ▶ Replaced manual pick processes with real-time, voice directed solution
- ▶ End to end manufacturing supply chain improvements
- ▶ Ensured high levels of user acceptance and smooth implementation
- ▶ Seamless integration with Cummin's Oracle ERP solution.

