



Generic ERP verses Cast Metal Specific ERP

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Tooling and dependent scheduling

The scheduling of dependent tooling (including patterns), usage, and its varying condition, will overstretch generic systems that don't understand the relationship between part and tooling. For example if you monitor a tool it is reasonable to assume that the usage at its production usage is being taken into account. Even if the generic system can take into account tool usage it will not know how a part 'breaks up', and therefore its usage will be based upon the overall manufactured requirement (or worse still the order quantity). It will not understand the usage is per mould/box/plate etc and therefore the information it provides is of little use, unless you are prepared once again to support it with external systems...

Drawing and issue control

The ability to move production from one customer requirement to another can be very tricky within generic systems. They don't always know about change control, drawing revisions, or changes in manufacturing methodology and don't enforce control of such. This is usually ignored (which is a real problem) or fixed to an inflexible method of not allowing the movement in the first place which tends to force operators to allocate false amounts into and out of inventory in order to 'get around' the problem. Synchro knows the difference between issues, materials, varying production methods, and provides options for how the cast metal company need to operate.

Quality control

Understanding the cast metal industry, Synchro has native functionality to stop sales orders, production booking, shipping, tooling usage etc when problems arise, not only on a capacity reporting basis but actual stops that can be controlled by production, pattern stores, sales, and so on. Every aspect of WIP booking, scrap, internal rework, customer returns, subcontracting, and inventory control are all controlled with data collection and analysis built towards gathering quality control information for Cast Metal Industry analysis. Collating this data in one place makes sense and provides the information needed to make informed decisions. Within generic systems some of this data can be collected and some manual stops applied but the information used to backup these decisions is usually held on external quality systems...

Technical support

Although not within the remit of the software system itself, technical support is arguably perhaps the most important difference. When challenges occur (as they often do) explaining the detail of shop floor processing to technical support employees (dedicated to providing answers to 'generic' questions) is not the most efficient way to deal with an urgent situation, industry knowledge and speedy resolution are both essential.

In Conclusion

If you are cast metal manufacturer looking for a replacement ERP system, make sure you choose an industry specific one. If you are being forced into using a generic system because your company belongs to a group make sure they understand the reasons why their systems will not work in your company and that using the right system will not only provide better control but also will work hand in hand with them at group level. And finally, if you are trying to save money by selecting a generic system consider two things, firstly how much time and money are you going to spend constructing and maintaining the external systems you will need to support the generic system, and secondly have you looked into the price of a specific system? Synchro is the best cast metal software for the industry, has no huge upfront fees, and costs less than most generic system to run...

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