

## ACCURATE, TIMELY DATA INCREASES CUMMINS' STOCK ACCURACY

### ENSURING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Huddersfield site (like all Cummins Turbo Technologies plants worldwide) has been accredited to ISO/TS16949:2002 which replaces QS9000 as the Specification for Automotive Quality Systems. This demonstrates the commitment of the company to its customers and its determination to remain leader in the increasingly competitive turbocharger market.

A key initiative for improving business processes is the Cummins Turbo Technologies' Six Sigma Program. This complements the requirements of TS16949 and provides a structure to improve processes that are not optimised. The outcome is lower costs and improved quality sustainable through the disciplines that Six Sigma brings.

An integral part of these initiatives has been the need to improve workflows across the organisation. This will enable Cummins Turbo Technologies 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 that would enable the company to fulfil and react more quickly to evolving customer requirements.

In particular, the need for the data capture system was to implement the solution in an uncomplicated fashion. This would help prevent problems with regard to operation of the system. The site is heavily unionised and there was a perception that the use of hand-held devices by the workforce should be treated as a higher skill level.

***"We have increased stock accuracy in the region of 10%-11% to 98% overall. This is a huge improvement based on our stock holding of approximately £6 million."***



## INTEGRATED DATA CAPTURE

After reviewing the data capture solutions available to them, Cummins Turbo Technologies chose BEC (Systems Integration) Ltd as their partner. BEC is an experienced and leading integrator of process based direct-connect capture systems.

BEC developed its automated data identification and capture solution, to enable companies to control all aspects of their inventory in real-time, from receipt to final delivery. The solution makes use of state of the art mobile data-acquisition devices. These devices automatically transfer the captured data to the Oracle system ensuring the accuracy and timeliness of the management information it produces.

The wireless network installed at the Huddersfield site, utilises both hand held terminals and static mount units with tethered scanners. The solution interfaces directly with the Oracle ERP system and enables real-time updates. This configuration provided the company with immediate and accurate information leading to improved business visibility and the ability to make faster and better informed business decisions.

The professional services team at BEC undertook the project management and smooth implementation of the solution. This required gaining a thorough understanding of the underlying business processes that were being automated. The required system transactions were either customised from the existing BEC set or produced from scratch, dependent on the need.



BEC also supplied a number of Intermec thermal printer units to produce the various tracking, product, box and pallet shipping labels.

The solution covered the following areas within 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

## BENEFITS

Many organisations implement comprehensive ERP systems but still maintain manual data capture processes. The inherent flaws in this type of setup will greatly reduce the impact of the ERP investment. Research has shown that operators collecting



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data manually 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 proven methods of automated data capture, into the host Oracle ERP system, savings become apparent immediately, yielding accurate, timely and reliable data. It also increased the efficiency of data entry, reducing the time and consequent cost of managing data in the factory and warehouse.

This was certainly the case at Cummins Turbo Technologies where Claire Elsie, IT manager noted: "The implementation of Oracle ERP and BEC's solution has allowed us to increase our stock accuracy in the region of 10%-11% to 98% overall. This is a huge improvement based on our stock holding 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.

## ABOUT CUMMINS TURBO TECHNOLOGIES

Cummins Turbo Technologies are specialists in the design and manufacture of turbochargers for commercial diesel engines. Part of the internationally renowned Cummins Group, its headquarters is based in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

The company has a unique position as it is the only manufacturer focussed solely on medium to heavy-duty diesel engine technology. As a result it is dedicated to the design and development of products that meet the special needs of these engines. This has led to a significant investment in strategic technologies such as product performance, rapid prototype development and project management.

## ABOUT BEC

BEC (Systems Integration) Ltd are specialist providers of Automated Data Capture Solutions. With access to a range of the latest data collection technologies, BEC advises, designs and delivers solutions that integrate seamlessly into host systems.

Working in the manufacturing, engineering and food & beverage industries, BEC's supply chain solutions improve productivity, efficiency and profitability.