



## 13 licences

## 123insight injects savings, integration and reports - at a fraction of the cost

Advanced Plastics & Composites Limited, an injection moulding company predominantly supplying the automotive industry, based in Hull, East Yorkshire has relied on an entry level MRP system since 1999, however as the company grew they started to reach the limitations of the software. Operations Director Rob Anderson explained; *“Although it controlled our production adequately, exporting information for reporting purposes was difficult. This effectively closed the door on plans to link it to other packages in the future. Also, we were paying a substantial amount of maintenance every year but seeing no updates in the software. We therefore started looking for an alternative solution.”*

In addition to 123insight two alternative systems were evaluated, both costing over £10,000 (excluding installation and training). In February 2002 the decision was made to implement 123insight although as the company also planned to move, installation was postponed for several months. The move occurred at the end of 2002, and the emphasis was then placed back onto getting 123insight up and running. Rob commented; *“We found the implementation very straightforward. Once we’d managed to get our legacy data out of the old system it was simply placed into Access tables, reformatted to match 123insight’s field structure and imported straight in. We had originally planned to run*



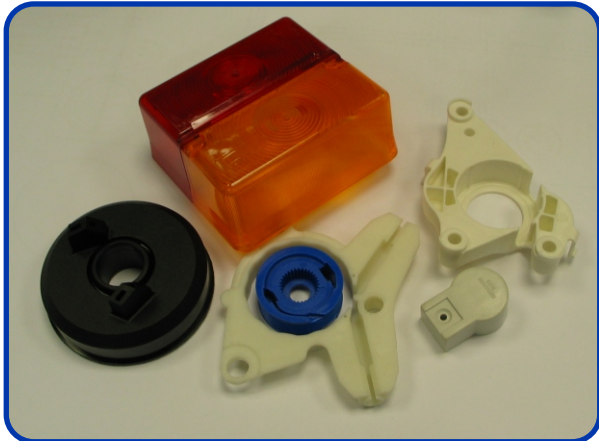
*both systems for a three month period in tandem, but it quickly became apparent that this would not be necessary, so the old system was switched off the same month.”*

The most noticeable change after the switch was that of order and component visibility. Their previous system could only hold the current year’s information on suppliers, customers and parts (meaning that at the beginning of January each year they had no information in the system to fall back on). 123insight immediately delivered complete history and traceability, which dramatically accelerated processes such as repeat purchases of components, especially where several suppliers were involved. Rob added; *“Our old system could not handle multiple suppliers per*

### Key Benefits:

- Traceability to EN ISO 9001:2000
- Purchasing improved
- Stock accuracy and traceability much better
- Logging of scrap info improved up to 50%
- Generating reports from Microsoft Access
- More open system
- Low monthly subscription of £818

*product, but 123insight handles this automatically. As a result the entire manufacturing system has been incorporated into our ISO9001 quality*



*procedures. We can now generate monthly reports, which we designed ourselves in Access, that provide information such as machine utilisation statistics that previously we could not even have considered obtaining. We used to log scrap information in an Excel spreadsheet in the office after it had been passed manually from production. This information is now keyed in directly on the shop floor, reducing the time to input the data by up to 50% and removing the delay in transferring manually between departments. All in all we simply have a much better handle on our work in progress.”*

Usability was also positively affected; *“The way that information across all departments is accessed is much more intuitive - previously we had to go through many screens to get the same information. When a customer rings up to ask if we have parts and how long it'll take we are better placed to answer those questions quickly. It's fairly obvious where you need to be in the system for any given task. There are also generally several ways to achieve the same result so you can choose the way to suit you.”*

***“The way that information is accessed across all departments is much more intuitive... All in all we simply have a much better handle on our work in progress.”***

***With the roll-out of 123insight to other departments Advanced Plastics are positive about the future. Rob concluded; “We have invested in an MRP system that we believe will carry us forward for at least another ten years. The beauty of 123insight is that we could implement the system ourselves - you are not shelling out large sums of money for something that is unproven, which gives you a much better incentive than a system paid for up front.”***