syncmanufacturing™

Sumiden Wire

Global Wire Manufacturer Instantly Increases Production Pace

Imagine manufacturing steel wires that range in diameter from the width of a hair to the width of a finger – and every millimeter in between. Combine that with different packaging options, customer specifications and multiple machine requirements, and the result is a product line of 10,000 items. Throw in the fact that raw materials vary for each of those items and the daily challenge faced by Sumiden Wire Products Corporation begins to emerge.

"We were using a semi-manual method to manage an incredibly complex product line and its accompanying raw materials," said Brian Burr, deputy general manager and manager of business planning for Sumiden Wire. "The process of taking orders and tracking them was incredibly burdensome and time-consuming."

Sumiden Wire, headquartered in Stockton, California with plants in California and Tennessee, manufactures stainless steel wire materials. The product is sold through distributions to spring makers.

How SyncManufacturing software transformed their business:

- Increased production by 10%, setting an all-time production record

- Increased single machine utilization capacity to 100% from about 65%

The challenge: Instantaneous scheduling and real-time communication

"We looked for a number of years at different software packages," Burr said. "Synchrono seemed the most logical in terms of helping us with our immediate business issue – the instantaneous scheduling and communication of production requirements across the business within real-time capacity constraints."

synchrono®
manufacturing software

Increased productivity and output

After only about six months of being live on SyncManufacturing software, Sumiden Wire started seeing significant results.

"Since we have been on the system, we have seen consistent increased productivity and output from this plant," Burr said. "In our first full month of using this software, we set an all-time production record. Much of the 10% increase can certainly be attributed to Synchrono."

One of Sumiden Wire's products is manufactured on a particular machine. This machine is a constraint that needs to be utilized 100% to ensure maximum throughput. In the past, this constrained machine ran at 65-70% capacity.

Since Synchrono gives the production planner complete visibility into the future to see every outstanding order scheduled across that machine on a single screen, it becomes very easy to maximize machine resource utilization, dramatically increase productivity of the constraint, and increase overall plant output. This, in turn, drives dollars to the bottom line without adding machinery, overhead or labor. In one month, approximately $60,000 bottom line dollars resulted from the increased utilization.

"Our production planner can now see which orders have all raw the materials available and issue those orders to production even if they are not due immediately," Burr said. "In the past, the planner would have to sift through too much information to see that. As a result, we'd just shut down the machine. Since we've had Synchrono, that machine has run continually."

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