

ICRON Advanced Planning & Scheduling for Glass Manufacture

Powerful and flexible Management Information Systems (MIS) technology for use in Glass Manufacture.

Offers low entry cost, fast ROI and long system life.

Suitable for Network Planning, Aggregate Master Planning and Real-time Scheduling.

Glass Manufacturing & Supply is one of the most complex business process models businesses around. It is a mix of a continuous foundry process at one end and discrete manufacture at the other. Continuity of production is essential and quality is everything. This creates extra demands on Production Planners and the need for a powerful and flexible Planning Management Information System.

To sustain customer loyalty, the promise of product quality must be matched by excellence in the Supply Chain. And it is here that the greatest financial efficiencies are to be found. Every dollar saved in the Supply Chain is worth up to 10 Dollars in sales revenue at the bottom line.



ICRON offers the world's most powerful and flexible finite capacity, object orientated, Advanced Planning and Scheduling MIS technology for manufacturers, that plugs into existing systems to provide optimised performance in strategic planning and real-time operations throughout the Supply Chain, including full raw materials control, all manufacturing operations, finished products warehousing, logistics, distribution, etc.

Key benefits include:

- § *Full visibility and real-time control over all operations giving flexibility and good reactivity*
- § *Linkage with all points in the Supply Chain via flexible interface capability*
- § *Manufacturing batch size and sequencing using most appropriate resources*
- § *Minimisation of wastage and dead stocks*
- § *Reductions in cost of raw materials and finished product inventories*
- § *Improved purchase order and distribution management*
- § *Production smoothing and thus increase in capacity*
- § *Virtual elimination of stock-outs and line stoppages*
- § *Network Analysis optimising best manufacturing location and cheapest route to market*
- § *Improved delivery forecasting and promises kept, leading to better Customer Relations*



What is wrong with my current MIS?

Most Supply Chain planning is done manually or using a variant of MRP functionality in the ERP platform. The problem is that such systems are blind to rapid changes in demand, customer priorities, maintenance, breakdowns, shifts, materials supply dynamics, etc. Planners have to compensate by holding more materials and finished products inventory than needed to be safe and, this costs money. Real-time planning has to be done manually outside the system and this is very slow, inaccurate and inefficient. The result is a Supply Chain that is inflexible, slow reacting and expensive, leading to eroded market competitiveness, reduced market share and reduced profitability.

ICRON closes all system gaps to deliver the prospect of world-class supply performance, leading to full confidence by customers and staff alike.

Not all planning systems are the same



ICRON is fundamentally different from all other planning platforms. No two Plants are the same. Customisation of traditional code scripted IT provides a "best fit" but not a "true fit" to the client's processes and business model, compromising performance and accuracy.

Through its unique graphical planning algorithm modelling tool, ICRON provides additional benefits, including:

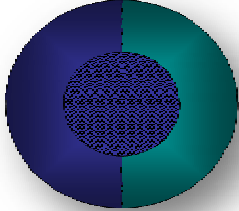
- § *Short implementation times*
- § *Definition and delivery of solutions to clients' exact planning needs, giving speed and accuracy*
- § *Interfacing with any other system or electronic data source*
- § *Supply of updated information to any other system or produce any chart or report*
- § *Allows quick and easy algorithm updating as clients' business model or needs change*
- § *Easy connectivity and updating*

Each ICRON pc is a web server, giving:

- § *Easy connectivity to data sources and other systems via LAN/WAN*
- § *Collaborative real-time scheduling capability for co-ordination with inter-dependent systems in any location*
- § *Remote web access to current ICRON reports from any internet point in any location*
- § *Simple / remote engine updates via self-installer files*



Distributed scheduling



Developing finished plans and schedules in complex environments requires processing of large data volumes and solution of multiple planning problems that have to be integrated to give the final answers. This can lead to very long processing times. The ICRON engine works in a modular or “distributed” fashion enabling the simultaneous processing of multiple problems and delivering fast results. Different and competing priorities are addressed at the same time. Fast processing speeds allow planners to work on multiple planning scenarios, to choose the best option and, to contribute to continuous Business Process Improvements.

ICRON planning options

- § Network Analysis: Determination of optimum supply location over a network of plants and warehouses
- § Capacity Planning: Master Production Scheduling of plants over a determined time period
- § Real-time scheduling: Finite, real-time synchronisation of operations that can be updated rapidly as circumstances change