

Quality Metalcraft, Inc.



About the company.

Quality Metalcraft, Inc. (QMC) is a supplier of high-quality prototype and low-volume production automotive parts with a focus on the fast-growing aftermarket and specialty car industries. The company brings OEM-standard design, engineering, and speed-to-market manufacturing capabilities to the world's top niche and enthusiast manufacturers. At any given time, QMC has as many as 250 production parts rolling out of its 250,000-square-foot facility—in runs of a few hundred a year to several thousand a month. Products range from small brackets and simple fabrications to large body-in-white components and assemblies. QMC has full electronic data interchange (EDI) and advanced shipping notice (ASN) capabilities, and can ship directly to production lines anywhere in the world. The 40-year-old company is headquartered near Detroit, Michigan. QMC has 250 employees and more than \$17 million in annual revenue. To learn more about the company, visit www.qualitymetalcraft.com.

“ Infor ERP VISUAL plays an important part in our overall corporate strategy to continue growing in our core business and diversify into new markets. ”

MICHAEL CHETCUTI, CEO, QUALITY METALCRAFT, INC.

Setting the strategy.

To meet its business growth and customer satisfaction objectives, QMC needed to overcome fundamental inefficiencies in its manufacturing operations. For example, the company's legacy enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution was ineffective in inventory control, which led to frequent stock-outs and missed deliveries. The existing ERP solution also could not support efficient plant and production scheduling, which raised costs from overtime that could have been avoided, unnecessary machine setups and teardowns, and material shortages.

"Because much of our work is in the prototype side of the automotive industry, we have to manage frequent and aggressive engineering changes," explains Michael Chetcuti, CEO, Quality Metalcraft, Inc. "This makes it critical that we have excellent visibility into our operations so we can effectively manage the volatility in our business."

The new solution would need to accurately measure the performance of individual projects so that the information could be used by employees responsible for estimating future jobs. QMC sought a solution that would link its manufacturing operations with inventory, purchasing, plant scheduling, and other business processes. "Our primary objective was to implement a proven solution that enabled us to forecast workload and create a precise manufacturing plan based on available resources," Chetcuti says, adding that the expertise and responsiveness of the solution provider's staff also was a major consideration.

Getting business specific.

"Of the four solutions we evaluated, Infor's ERP VISUAL met our functionality needs the best," Chetcuti says. "The functional capabilities, combined with Infor's commitment to continually enhance the solution and the excellent feedback we received from existing customers, made Infor ERP VISUAL the obvious choice."

facts at a glance:

> company	Quality Metalcraft, Inc.
> solution	Infor ERP
> product	VISUAL
> industry	Automotive
> revenue	US \$17 Million
> employees	250
> country	USA

Infor's application is a user-friendly solution with a comprehensive range of business-specific capabilities, including support for EDI, ASNs, and barcode technology. According to Chetcuti, QMC uses Infor ERP VISUAL's EDI interface and ASN capabilities to communicate electronically with customers and to ship its products directly to its customers' production lines. In addition, the solution gives QMC easy access to historical operations data, so the company can retrieve all relevant information to support improved decision-making.

"Although we initially purchased the software for its advanced manufacturing functionality, we've added modules for payroll and quality management because the functionality was a good fit for our needs," Chetcuti says. The payroll module was attractive to QMC because it could easily be linked to the manufacturing functionality. "We bought the quality management module because we saw that it could improve our performance as well as help maintain our ISO 9002 certification," he says.

Seeing results.

QMC worked with Infor and Infor's business partner, Visual Business Solutions, to ensure a smooth implementation. "We had the solution up and running in six months. Since then, we've continually improved the implementation and the business results we're getting," Chetcuti says.

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“Infor ERP VISUAL has greatly improved our day-to-day operations,” he says. “For example, with Infor’s application there is now tight coordination between manufacturing and purchasing. This has significantly improved plant scheduling and enabled us to measure down time and our overall performance on each job. We’ve also been able to reduce our inventory counting time from three days to eight hours.”

The tight linkage between manufacturing and payroll makes it possible for QMC to apply all labor hours directly to a specific job. Before implementing Infor ERP VISUAL, labor tickets were entered manually, a time-consuming and error-prone process. “The direct correlation between the hours in the enterprise system and the payroll system has enabled us to reduce payroll processing time from three days to one day,” he says.

Doing business better.

QMC continues to implement additional capabilities in the Infor ERP VISUAL solution. “Infor is constantly enhancing the software. As new functionality becomes available, we’ve been able to add new capabilities that have progressively increased our productivity,” Chetcuti says. In addition to the core manufacturing capabilities, payroll module, and quality management, QMC is leveraging engineering change notice, preventative maintenance, and human resources capabilities.

“When we started this process, we were looking for a solid product. Infor ERP VISUAL has consistently exceeded our expectations,” Chetcuti says. “Infor ERP VISUAL plays an important part in our overall corporate strategy to continue growing in our core business and diversify into new markets.”

About Infor.

Infor acquires and develops functionally rich software backed by thousands of domain experts and then makes it better through continuous innovation, faster implementation options, global enablement, and flexible buying options. In a few short years, Infor has become one of the largest providers of business software in the world. For additional information, visit www.infor.com.

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Customer Profile

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