

Virtual Factory[®]

Case Study

AISIN

Aisin Automotive Casting contacted Orbit Technology to improve visibility and efficiency for their new plant in Tennessee. Aisin is a Tier-1 engine-parts supplier to Toyota, Honda, and other auto manufacturers, with over \$200M sales per year.



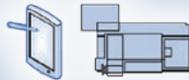
Problems:

- **Visibility.** *There was no way to see the status of the factory at a glance.*
- **Response Time.** *Response time was poor. Workers spent precious time looking for a supervisor to fix a problem.*
- **Accuracy.** *Production and scrap counts were often wrong. They were collected by hand and entered into separate reports for managers and accounting.*
- **History.** *Important historical information was not kept, including reasons for machine down time, scrap details, and critical temperatures.*
- **Analysis.** *All analysis was done by hand. Reports were difficult to construct. Without historical data, many questions about root causes could not be answered.*

The Virtual Factory® Solution

1

Automatically capture production and scrap data by connecting machines via local network. Obtain status and manual scrap data via touch panels.



2

Install a pager system to notify workers of problems. When a machine goes down, when a worker needs material, or when a temperature goes out of bounds, Virtual Factory notifies the correct people via pager, cell phone text message, or email.



Virtual Factory Server



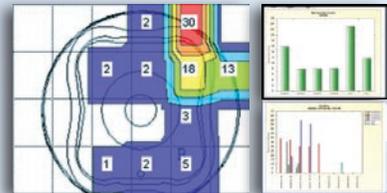
3

Install several large status panels throughout the factory to increase visibility. Key statistics about each machine are shown. The same information can be seen with any browser, even over the internet.



4

Track efficiency, scrap, status, and key statistics via your own browser. Analyze trends to identify bottlenecks and problem areas. Quickly focus on the main problems. Look at the system from a high level, and drill down to find the root causes.



“Our customized Virtual Factory software has improved several aspects of our daily operation. The easy-to-use operator interface enables us to track scrap, downtime, and efficiency, as well as several other useful pieces of information and presents it in an easily understandable and visual format.”

Kevin Stringer – Senior Operations Manager, AACT

Orbit

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