



Aptean Industrial Manufacturing ERP

eBook

7 Reasons Your Fabricated Metal Company Needs an Industrial Manufacturing ERP



Running at speed in a complex world

Industrial manufacturing is becoming more complex. However, this is driving new opportunities – both externally and from within. As an industrial manufacturer, your challenge is seizing these opportunities ahead of the competition.

To run at full speed, your business needs complete operational visibility and efficiency – something only technology can deliver.

Need more convincing? This eBook explores seven tangible, game-changing reasons why fabricated metal companies should invest in industrial manufacturing ERP.

We look at how industry-specific software will streamline your supply chain and de-risk business operations, so you can maintain profitability and pursue the next big opportunity.

Let's take a look at the first compelling reason to embrace ERP..



1. Execute Faster on the Shop Floor

As the nerve center of your business, the shop floor needs to be flawless. This means pinpoint planning, smart scheduling and seamless execution – all of which can be delivered through ERP.

There are two game-changing differences that ERP enables. The first is real-time data; you can track labor and inventory transactions to monitor shop floor operations. The second is automation; intensive manual tasks are converted into quick, system-led processes.

Beyond this, the most powerful ERP software on the market will empower your fabricated metal business to:

- › **React quickly to events** - critical information is sent to relevant people via automated notifications, texts or emails in real-time, thanks to workflow process management functionality. Leading-edge ERP can even predict events, so that you can respond proactively.
- › **Make in-the-moment changes** - with complete control and visibility, your teams can manage job requests and job order information directly with the shop floor. This includes making real-time labor changes, moving inventory and issuing materials within a single system, driving efficiency.
- › **Close the communication gap** - digitizing your manufacturing operations closes the gaps in information delivery. There's no need for job order travelers and material pick lists, meaning you can go completely paperless. Plus, simpler data sharing saves valuable time and empowers your staff to concentrate on the most productive tasks.

How do we know this? Because Aptean has developed an Industrial Manufacturing ERP that fits the exact needs of fabricated manufacturers. We know that flexibility and efficiency are critical, and we've created a solution that keeps up with everything happening on the shop floor, in real-time.



2. Increase the Profitability of Business Decisions

Do you know exactly where your money is coming from and where it's being spent? Many manufacturers don't – because they need a sophisticated ERP system that can investigate financial transactions, interrogate business data, and protect your profits.

With the right software, you're unstoppable. You can make smart decisions for every aspect of your business in an instant – like calculating the profit margin on individual jobs, or identifying profitability drivers at every level: customer, product family, facility, part, salesperson and territory. And you can store this data to reference later, when you need it most.





3. Respond Immediately to Production Changes

Your business is continuously evolving. Whether you're expanding your operations, funding new projects, or just making adjustments to reflect changing priorities, you need a robust planning and scheduling tool that will give you access to the latest, most relevant information.

With the right ERP software, you can respond immediately to production changes. You have the power to quickly schedule and sequence all the activities in your work centers, building the right jobs at the correct times to meet due dates. Plus, ERP gives you the flexibility to adapt quickly and easily if orders change or new priority orders arise.

For an even greater gamechanger, look for industry-specific ERP. For example, Aptean's Industrial Manufacturing ERP features state-of-the-art scheduling algorithms and real-world capacity, material, and time constraints. This enables you to model out what-if scenarios, confidently set delivery dates with real-time capable to promise (CTP), and create plans and schedules that maximize efficiency and profit.



4. Improve Accuracy in Quoting and Estimating

Accurate quotes and timely estimates aren't the most exciting topics, but they are critical to your bottom line. And you need the right data at your fingertips to provide these, fast.

With manufacturing-specific ERP software, you can drive business profitability by analyzing when an item was last built, what components were used, how much labor was needed and actual cost vs. quote analysis. Then, you can factor all this information into your next quote. Make sure you select software that allows you to improve quoting and estimating, however, as not all ERPs offer this capability.

By using ERP to improve quoting and estimating accuracy, both you and your customers are getting the most out of every order. This fosters a trusting, sustainable relationship –great for building long-term business prospects.



5. Build Visible, Accurate Inventory

Whether you operate in make-to-order, assemble-to-order, or mixed-mode fabricated metal environments, you need robust tools to manage inventory effectively.

The right Industrial Manufacturing ERP will enable you to:

- › **See all your parts in real-time** to make sure you can meet job order requirements.
- › **Organize important information** about each part for easy access.
- › **Update inventory levels in real-time** so you can confidently make materials management decisions.
- › **Track inventory that has been set aside** and so is unavailable for production use.
- › **Perform everyday inventory transactions** – including receipts, issues and transfers.
- › **Provide fast access to related information** without having to retype anything.
- › **Generate a detailed material availability report** where you can view critical inventory information, in order to make better management decisions.





6. Seamlessly Integrate CAD and ERP Systems

Integrating CAD and ERP changes the game. By connecting the flow of engineering information and bill of materials (BOM) data between two previously disparate systems, you can increase data accuracy and visibility, and eliminate duplicate data entry.

What does this mean in day-to-day operations? You'll be able to:

- ▶ Push item revisions from inventory direction into the ERP, easily viewing engineering BOM and/or item-level discrepancies between CAD and ERP data.
- ▶ Store and synchronize fundamental item master properties within the ERP directly inside the CAD model custom properties. This ensures that information displayed in Drawings always matches the ERP data.
- ▶ Review all items and Engineering BOM changes and export them to Excel or PDF formats.

Aptean uses CadLink, a tool that establishes a real-time bi-directional link between your CAD application and your Aptean Industrial Manufacturing ERP. With CadLink in your arsenal, you can compare and edit CAD and ERP data sets simultaneously, potentially import newly modeled parts directly to the Item Master, and automate immediate Item Master and BOM updates.



7. Achieve the Highest Quality at All Times

It's critical to monitor and assess quality within your fabricated metals business. Yet many quality managers struggle to balance data entry and data analysis, particularly if they don't have the tools an industrial manufacturing ERP can offer.

If you don't have an industry-specific ERP, you're likely working with pen and paper, or an outdated legacy system. These methods make data collection and analysis time-consuming and frustrating.

Industrial Manufacturing ERP systems include built-in quality management software. This way, you can track the cost and frequency of quality events, initiate non-conformances and corrective actions and manage ISO compliance with advanced monitoring, to achieve the highest quality at all times.



Meet the demands of a complex, broad production list

Metal fabrication and component manufacturing isn't easy. You're producing a wide variety of products for a broad customer base. And, to do this, you're having to manage complex production demands.

An ERP system tailored to your industry will enable you to increase quality, quantity and profitability, within your existing capacity.

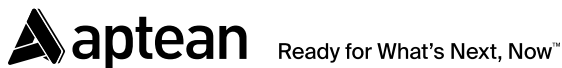
Aptean Industrial Manufacturing ERP has been designed specifically to meet the metal fabrication industry's requirements. Our software powers unique, complex operations and mixed-mode manufacturing processes, to give discrete manufacturers like you the confidence and tools to make smart business decisions.



Are you Ready to Learn More?

We'd love to show you how fabricated metal companies are benefiting from Aptean Industrial Manufacturing ERP technology.

Contact us at info@aptean.com or visit www.aptean.com.



Aptean provides very specific industries with very specific ERP, supply chain management, and customer experience solutions. In today's fast-paced, highly competitive economy, organizations don't have time to waste forcing homegrown software, spreadsheets, and one-size-fits-all solutions to do things they were never designed to do. Aptean is on a mission to end those work-arounds - with industry-specific solutions instead of generic software, expert support instead of making you go it alone, and a steady influx of new ideas instead of the status quo.

For more information, visit www.aptean.com.