



Infor XA Solutions for Manufacturing

INFOR XA FROM OPEN BUSINESS SOLUTIONS HAS THE RIGHT CHEMISTRY FOR ELECTROTHERMAL'S DISCRETE MANUFACTURING

For more than a decade, Bibby Scientific Limited has used Infor XA, an advanced, scalable enterprise resource planning (ERP) system supplied by Open Business Solutions (OBS). Bibby Scientific Ltd is the UK's largest independent manufacturer of laboratory products and specialises in a range of science equipment, benchtop equipment and high quality laboratory products.

Running on the renowned IBM iSeries platform, this leading ERP system was specifically designed for use in discrete manufacturing environments and has now been selected by Bibby Scientific's Electrothermal business in Rochford, Essex, to help enhance the company's business processes.



Electrothermal is the newest addition to the Bibby Scientific portfolio and is a market leader in heating mantle design and manufacture, having supplied heating, cooling and stirring equipment for 70 years. Prior to July 2012, Electrothermal relied on a number of disparate systems that could not

give a real-time view of the business. It included an ageing Unix-based MRP (material requirements planning) system and a separate accounts package that were time-consuming and cumbersome to use.

"Our existing systems needed replacing and with the acquisition by Bibby Scientific, Infor XA was the natural choice. This is the standard business software used by all Bibby European sites. As well as the ERP functionality it provides, Infor XA also includes a fully integrated accounting solution. The integration eliminates the need for time-consuming, labour-intensive reconciliation necessary between our old systems," says Ian Waldie, Materials Manager at Electrothermal.

Bibby Scientific

Electrothermal

BENEFITS

- Reduces Cost
- Integrated system that covers all areas of the business
- Saves time and labour
- Tighter control of materials management, giving an instant view of manufacturing costs and profits
- Improves customer service
- Full visibility of management information from a single reference point
- Client-server solution that is scalable and easily deployed to new users
- Integrates Electrothermal with all other Bibby sites using Infor XA
- Access to Open Business Solutions expertise and support

"As well as the ERP functionality, Infor XA also includes a fully integrated accounting solution" Ian Waldie, Materials Manager, Electrothermal

"By using Infor XA, we also gain the advantage of working with Open Business Solutions (OBS), an arrangement Bibby has benefited from for more than a decade. OBS understands the business and has the expertise and resources that ensure we gain the full benefit of the software.

"We have an excellent working relationship with OBS and are very happy with how they have used their expertise to customise InforXA to suit our business needs. This, and the project management and training support provided by OBS, has enabled us to get off to a good start.

"By adopting the Bibby group ERP solution, Electrothermal will also be able to benefit from Infor solutions such as EDI trading, Business to Business e-commerce (COM_Net2) and CRMi, which are already in the Bibby application portfolio," he adds.

FLEXIBLE AND RELIABLE CLIENT-SERVER SOLUTION

The Infor XA-based ERP solution from OBS is a client-server system that covers all business functions for Electrothermal, including purchasing, selling, stock management, materials management, costing, engineering, planning and financials. It provides a central database that the various departments can use to share information easily from a single, accurate source. Information needs only to be input once and updates are in real time, giving fast and accurate answers to those using it.

The system is very flexible and secure, allowing the easy addition and set up of new users as required. This flexibility is very reassuring as it protects the company's IT investment and enables it to grow with the company long into the future. The software uses the latest technologies such as service-oriented architecture (SOA) and Java and is developed continually by the authors to meet the evolving manufacturing scene.



GAINING THE BENEFIT OF INTEGRATION

By using the system, Electrothermal will gain tighter control of materials. It will provide visibility of stocks and enable the company to order what it needs, when it needs it. This helps to manage manufacturing costs better and improve customer service because the company has a clearer view of order lead times. The system gives a real-time view of production from initial order to completion.

"The integrated finance package offers genuine time savings gained from replacing manual journals and reports. The system also allows us to run MRP daily to react more quickly to customer orders. This runs automatically each morning and it sends out information to each department so that they know what they have to deal with. It supports our people much more than the old system and we'll be able to more easily interact with other Bibby sites around the world, which is also advantageous," says Ian Waldie.

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