MAS | Manufacturing Asset Solutions

ARE YOU A VICTIM OF
TOOLING?

…sometimes an ERP doesn't cut it

- Current & Future Tool Demand
- Tool Crib Control
- Tooling Lifecycle
- Inventory Management
- Tooling Cost Control & Compliance
- Production Quality
- Tool/Kit Availability
- Tool Visibility & Analysis

It has been many years since I ran the Tooling Department, but I remember those times like they were just a few months ago.

Every month the same thing would happen, certain parts scheduled to ship would run through my department.

We used a very well implemented ERP system with complete BOM's (Bill of Materials), upstream visibility… the works.

But there was always a disconnect!

The only way to ensure my department was not the one under the microscope for holding up an order was to track tooling inventory and tool life on a spread sheet. It was my only way to know what I had and how many more parts I could get out of each die.

My department performed a forming process and this process gave the part its key features.

There was no work around, and if there was no die, the job sat until the tool room could make another one.

Another die would be weeks away, at best a week, if no other department have the same crisis I was having.

Let's just say two weeks was optimistic.

It took me years to realize the tooling allocations were not tied to the job. Planning would look at the backlog, look at the tooling inventory and say "yep" we are good and launch the work order.

They had no idea the tools were being consumed on the other orders already launched and in WIP ahead of it.

I've since learned that a implementing a tooling management software system could have prevented hours of spread-sheet hassle.

Do you have a similar story?

-George Wilken, Project Engineer

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