

Advanced Planning System



Parkdale Mills

Sunrise Technologies helped Parkdale Mills to advance customer service and operating performance, to reduce inventory and improve the “bottom line” profitability using advanced planning systems



Executive Summary

Parkdale Mills is the world's largest producer of cotton spun yarn. The deficiencies in Parkdale's legacy systems, the drastic increase in the number of end-item SKU's, high turn around time for delivery requests from customers, and inventory burden on the company prompted Parkdale to come to a decision to implement an Advanced Planning and Scheduling (APS) solution to improve planning and capable-to-promise ability.

Sunrise Technologies led Parkdale through the complete implementation process, from education and training to design and implementation of the advanced planning system. The new tools supply the robust and flexible planning capabilities that provide Parkdale with the agility and efficiency needed to meet customer needs. The turn-around time to provide an accurate delivery date which did average between one to three hours can now be provided in a few minutes for more than 50% of all inquiries. The change to a Just in Time (JIT) philosophy has taken the “guess-work” out of the planning and scheduling functions and led to inventory reductions. These bottom-line benefits are expected to continue as the business processes mature with the new philosophy.

Company Profile

Parkdale Mills is the independent producer of cotton and cotton blend yarns. Begun in 1916, Parkdale Mills managed to stay as a leader through innovation, aggressive investments, and acquisitions. Today, the privately owned company has 31 plants and over 2500 employees. The company focuses exclusively on the creation of a diverse mix of high quality cotton, cotton/polyester blend yarns, and 100% polyester yarns.

Advanced Planning System

Business Requirements

Parkdale's planning function is centralized. The capable-to-promise process that supplied delivery dates to customers' delivery inquiries utilized an allocation and planning/scheduling system that was part of Parkdale's legacy systems. These systems possessed limited automation and lacked the consistency, flexibility, and efficiency required to support Parkdale's dynamic business requirements. These deficiencies combined with the drastic increase in the number of end-item SKUs placed considerable stress on existing systems.

Several of Parkdale's customers complained that the lead time to receive a delivery quote was unacceptable. In the past, Parkdale built inventory to overcome planning inefficiencies. With the proliferation of SKUs, however, the "right" inventory was often unavailable. While inventory designated for one customer could be diverted to another for fast-moving yarns, the inventory burden was heavy for custom yarns.

Manual planning and scheduling showed signs of cracking under pressure at a time when global competition demanded a robust, agile and efficient system. Parkdale recognized that the planning and capable-to-promise processes presented opportunities for improving customer satisfaction as well as "bottom line" profitability. After an extensive evaluation they decided to implement an Advanced Planning and Scheduling (APS) solution to improve the planning and capable-to-promise processes.

AT A GLANCE

Company web site	www.parkdalemills.com
Industry	Cotton and cotton blend yarns
Headquarters (NA)	Gastonia, NC
Services by Sunrise	Training Change Management Workflow Design Capable-To-Promise and Advanced Planning System Implementation

Years of manual planning and scheduling combined with ingrained business processes made it difficult for Parkdale to transition to an APS solution. These difficulties included planning philosophies that weren't adequately understood, contradicted or competed with existing policies and disparate legacy systems that had to be interfaced with a leading-edge system.

Sunrise Solution

Parkdale acquired the services of Sunrise Technologies for its expertise in the successful implementation of several advanced planning tools. As leaders, project managers, and implementers, Sunrise led Parkdale through the complete implementation process from education and training to design and implementation. The result was the successful implementation of an APS solution that provided both supply chain planning and capable-to-promise tools. The new tools supply the robust and flexible planning capabilities that provide Parkdale with the agility and efficiency needed to meet its customers' needs and to improve its operating performance.

Benefits

Parkdale started realizing the benefits of the new system almost immediately. The turn-around time to provide an accurate delivery date which did average between one to three hours can now be provided in a few minutes for more than 50% of all inquiries. The change to a JIT philosophy has taken the "guess-work" out of the planning and scheduling functions and led to inventory reductions.

Yarn quality and age were identified during the business process review as two inventory characteristics that should be considered during the order promising process. This change has yielded additional inventory reductions. These bottom-line benefits as well as additional benefits are expected to continue as the business processes mature with the new philosophy.

For more information, call Mike Pereira at (336) 722-6741 or visit www.sunriseconsult.com