

Case Studies

Hills Panel Products

“ Efficient Management of Production and Distribution ”



Customer Profile

Hills Panel Products are a broad range supplier to the furniture and building trade of MDF based products and associated fittings. HPP were formed in 1991, and are based in Oldham and Sheffield. Over the years HPP have continuously added a host of related products including furniture doors, handles, fittings systems from Blum, laminate flooring and more to their growing product range.

HPP has continuously invested in all aspects of its business. Starting with 10,000 sq ft of storage and office space, they now occupy over 100,000 sq ft and employ over 80 staff, operating the very latest technology in order to deliver the company's aims. In Nov 1999, HPP was delighted to achieve the 'Investor in People' accreditation.

Key Achievements

- Comprehensive use of [Sales Order Processing](#) to handle HPP's industry specific requirements.
- Automated links from Sales Order Processing and [Production](#) modules to CNC based routers and saws.
- Integrated use of [Transport module](#) with Sales Order Processing for Load Planning.

Needed - A Powerful System to handle End-To-End Processes

Hills Panel Products (HPP) are a broad range supplier to the furniture and building trade. Their product range includes a huge selection of sheets, cut and edged board, worktops, vinyl wrapped furniture doors, and associated fittings. In order to manage the growth of their business activities HPP realised they required a truly integrated financials and logistics solution, leading them to investigate a number of potential solutions. Being a complex business with diverse product ranges, Hills Panel Products came to the conclusion that the de Facto system was the ideal solution for their manufacturing and distribution operations.



Complex Sales Orders handling Industry Specific Requirements

As a result of implementing the de Facto solution and the examination of their business processes by our implementation specialists, HPP have switched to utilising [Sales Orders](#) for their [production planning](#). The switch has resulted in the ability to manage complex orders much more efficiently, removing the need for a huge number of [Bills of Materials](#).

A single Sales Order may include diverse items from across their product range. To facilitate this, De Facto created additional functionality within the [Sales Order](#) window to record the full range of product specific information that HPP needed to record and track. These extra fields enable them to record such information as components, styles, door production information etc. This 'extra fields' functionality is standard in S5 and can easily be set up to handle any business specific information required.

Vistas managing information to control Routers and Saws

Further significant efficiencies in production planning and management became possible on the basis of utilising S5's powerful [Vistas](#). Through Vistas, HPP have an easy to use and effective method for taking the information right through to the routers which cut the patterns and products out of their raw materials.

For example, the Vista can take a selection for a single colour of raw product from the list of orders and the output can then be directly utilised by the CAD/CAM software which optimises the routing jobs. As a result, HPP have experienced dramatic increases in production efficiency. Planning and optimisation have been improved, with reduced wastage of both boards and vinyl. The improved grouping allows for bigger production runs, enabling improved quality due to optimal press temperature attainment.

■ **Advanced Transport and Load Planning**

HPP run their own transport and distribution operations. **Load planning** is a vital issue for them due to their extremely varied range of products and extensive customer list. S5 enables them to manage load order and drop order with maximum efficiency.

As HPP distribute products in a wide variety of units and sizes, S5's ability to load plan in a range of units is used to good effect. Unassigned capacity is easily viewed for planned loads using the planning window. S5 enables the easy printing of drop orders and transport instructions for the haulier, as well as detailed load manifests. Packing documents further enable the customer to see at a glance the contents of packs within a load.

■ **Effective Multi Warehouse Management**

As Hills Panel Products operate **multiple product-specific warehouse areas** within their sites, communication and effective management of resources are vital. From within the same 'multi-disciplinary' Sales Order, S5 filters enable the viewing and utilisation of only those products particular to an individual functional area of a warehouse. Having thus enabled the staff to manage their own operation at their own level, the full range of items in the Sales Order is then brought back into view for **transport planning** purposes.

Martin Hill, Operations Director, HPP Ltd:

“ de Facto has enabled HPP to gain great efficiencies in all areas of our business. This partnership has enabled us to focus our efforts on moving the business forward. Our future growth plans all involve working closely with De Facto as their flexibility gives us the confidence that whatever challenge we present De Facto Software will be able to handle it. ”

Visit the website of
[Hills Panel Products](#)

☎ **Call Us Now ...**

to find out how de Facto S5 can deliver a powerful, flexible and easy to use solution to your business system needs!

Tel: 01473 417 200

Powerful Solutions for Multiple Markets

De Facto Software provides business driven Accounting and ERP solutions to wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers, packers and suppliers throughout the UK.

de Facto S5 incorporates integrated **Financials and Accounts, Logistics, Production, CRM, eServices, Business Intelligence, WMS, EDA and Costing** facilities, in one **powerful** solution. Deploying the system typically delivers significant customer gains in such areas as productivity, cost advantage, management awareness, and competitive edge.



Power



Flexibility



Ease of Use

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