



Servicing the rapidly-growing graphic arts business sector provides special challenges for DS Chemport, the Campbellfield (Vic) based manufacturer and supplier of inks and other consumables to the printing industry has some unique information systems requirements. The company specialises in formulating pressroom and pre-press chemicals, ultra-violet (UV) inks, UV and water-based coatings for sheet-fed and web printing.

Their challenges range from keeping close control of formulas, meeting customers' unique specifications, distributing a wide range of ink and consumable products, and handling the all the complex demands of administration, raw materials procurement and financial control.

To meet these challenging demands the company has turned to Melbourne-based systems consultancy, Decisive Solutions Pty. Ltd., to bring the widely differing threads of the business together with a comprehensive enterprise resource planning system (ERP).

Decisive Solutions provide software and supporting services to consolidate, manage and evaluate information flow and provide cost-effective management in challenging and rapidly-changing business environments throughout Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

In Chemport's case, the emphasis was on providing shop-floor control through work orders, along with formula revision and maintenance management. Other tasks included batch tracking, stock control, quality

control and test results, integration of applications and first-in-first-out (FIFO) costing.

"We rely on a highly-trained and innovative team of people to help tailor solutions to our customers often rapidly changing and developing needs," says DC Chemport's technical manager, Anthony Seric. "We are flexible and reactive, and a large proportion of our products are developed locally."

He added that tight computer control of manufacturing and distribution activities was vital to the company's success, and the systems integration software provided by Decisive Solutions had played a high-level role in the business.

DS Chemport is a world-wide organisation, partnering with the German DS Group, and is also now part of the world-wide Fujifilm group.

Anthony Seric said the system had first been developed as a hedge against the so-called Millennium problem back in 2000 and had been built upon as new needs and opportunities emerged.

"That's the beauty of the software — its flexibility, adaptability and ease-of-use." Anthony said. "The previous system was not integrated for production and accounting. We wanted something that would integrate all aspects of the business."

Anthony added that the integrated system handled several major tasks. Starting with formula management, it provided vital overall security and protected the intellectual property relating to the formulation of the company's products and the special inks and coatings developed for particular customers.

"All this information is tucked away safely, only to be accessed by those who are entitled to see and use it. We can easily access changes, inventory and other elements which were otherwise not easy to manage.

"It is great for batch tracking — we have an inbuilt system for inventory control, in and out, and it is so simple and straightforward.

"We pride ourselves on our quality control, and that is thanks largely to the Decisive ERP system. It is easy to set up the test processes which are unique to each product. It is date and change sensitive and totally trackable.

Anthony added that the first-in-first-out (FIFO) capability had been of particular use in the auditing process. Auditors could be shown how to use the basic operating system and left to their own devices to produce an effective company audit. All the company's financial and production information was readily available with little further input required from Chemport people.

"The auditors think its brilliant — they were blown away by the accuracy, simplicity and convenience."

Anthony said that Decisive Solutions had always been very helpful over almost a decade of involvement with Chemport.

"They seem to take a 'drop everything' approach to problem-solving — for instance, when we were taken over several years ago by the Fujifilm group we had to change from a July 1 financial year to one commencing in April. Decisive handled it seamlessly and at lightspeed. They are a vital component of our business," Anthony said.



**Unit 8, 617 Spencer Street,
WEST MELBOURNE, Vic. 3003**
Tel 61 3 9329 7355
Fax 61 3 9329 7399