QISOFT

IMPROVING
YOUR
MANUFACTURING IQ

IN TODAY'S MANUFACTURING ENVIRONMENT...

A strong IT infrastructure is an absolute necessity.
IT can provide a non-capital intensive approach to increasing production and improving quality, reducing costs and environmental impacts, and improving customer service.

However there are countless different systems that claim to perform so many different roles across the plant, so IT needs to be justified based on the applications it supports – not on its own. Since most of the easy return applications (focusing on automation) have already been made and implemented, IT now has had to play a more **strategic** role.

IT applications should distribute information to a wide range of people according to their individual needs. Management will insist on ROI, but they really want understanding, which then leads to commitment. It is therefore important for the technology to provide understanding.

Strategic applications that add value by improving product quality, reducing losses and costs, and improving production flexibility or customer service have both **tangible** and **'intangible'** benefits. A tightly run and highly efficient organization can undercut the competition and win market share, as well as delivering a streamlined operation that delivers benefits straight to the bottom line.

CONNECTING THE ISLANDS OF INFORMATION

The most value comes from creating an operationally driven IT architecture based on integrated, end-to-end software solutions, that can transcend silos to unify operations and create visibility and transparency across the enterprise. The key to success is in providing interoperability between existing business and manufacturing systems thereby facilitating the analysis of real-time information, performance monitoring & allowing the identification of problems before they become a crisis.

The plants that will thrive in the future will do so by transforming their manufacturing data into real knowledge and actionable intelligence, gaining the insight required to optimize process performance, increase productivity and reduce costs – all leading to great customer satisfaction and higher profits.
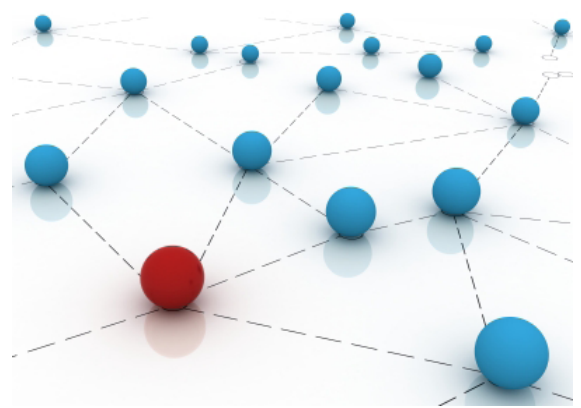
DELIVERING ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE ACROSS THE ENTERPRISE

It is fairly well accepted that a good ERP system is essential for a business to streamline its supply chain and understand transactional data. However what is also becoming clear is that to get the most value out of ERP systems it is vital to also have closely coupled connectivity to a software system that is especially designed to help understand productivity, efficiency and quality problems on the shop floor and provide visibility of this across the enterprise.

In order to truly succeed in todays' competitive Manufacturing landscape, the next generation of manufacturing decision-makers are going to require access to a whole different set of applications than their predecessors. The operators of tomorrow are going to need to make a far broader set of decisions that go beyond the boundaries of traditional process control – and will need to have access to the knowledge and insight required to support these decisions.

The traditional MES system is no longer enough - to really harness the power of information and knowledge throughout the manufacturing chain, companies need to embrace the far more advanced manufacturing intelligence systems available today – connecting to every

process in the manufacturing chain and adding the extra layer of Enterprise Manufacturing Intelligence (EMI) thereby truly connecting both horizontally and vertically through an organization.

Manufacturing Intelligence solutions are helping bridge the gap between production and business environments. The continuing presence of inflexible legacy systems is facilitating the use of intelligent analytics to reduce complexity and simplify decision-making. MI software solutions provide a seamless enterprise-wide, real-time visibility of information– at the same time reducing or eliminating reliance on traditional manual data process analysis.

Although there is still a fairly low level of market awareness about true MI, especially compared to the more well understood ERP or MES solutions, the continuing technological developments and compelling benefits of MI should help overcome this barrier. Best-in-class manufacturers are implementing MI systems across their enterprise and supply chain networks to deliver automated alerts, real-time visibility and contextualisation of shop-floor data to provide the actionable intelligence that can truly help deliver operational excellence.