

Products

Synchro³² System Contributes to Enormous Growth of UK Investment Caster, Lestercast Ltd.

When owners Malcolm Healey and Chris Batty purchased Lestercast, Ltd. (Liecester, UK) in September 2001, the small investment casting foundry had only one personal computer, and all production, quality and sales functions were carried out manually. By 2008, sales had climbed from \$1.68 million to \$12.45 million, thanks to a fully integrated business production control/enterprise resource planning system from Synchro³².

Batty, who is managing director at Lestercast, indicated one of the first things management did on purchasing the company was to contact Synchro³², a worldwide leading provider of investment casting-specific ERP/ MRP software designed and supported only for the metal casting industry. Although headquartered in the UK, more than half of Synchro's business is in the US.

Batty stressed the importance of working with a company familiar with how a foundry works. "They were very conversant with both their system and also the foundry process, which is really important," he said.

"Lestercast Ltd. is a prime example of an ailing company which was purchased by a couple of experienced engineers with a vision," said Synchro³² CEO and Managing Director Chris Collins. "Synchro was there from the inception of the buyout. Since Lestercast management wanted to concentrate their total effort and experience on growing and expansion, they approached

us to install, integrate and support the software system."

Batty noted the investment foundry's goal was to run the company on a standard system and be able to access all relevant data by direct access or reports. "I am a production engineer and not a 'techy,' so I don't want myself or anyone else at our company having to 'fiddle' with the main programming," he said.

The standard Synchro³² system was installed into a new computer network. "I think we started off with about eight screens on the system. We have developed the size of the system over a number of years and now have 16 terminals and a separate specialized server, but the software is still basically the same as when we first set it up," Batty said. "Because the system is fully integrated, we are able to run everything from the first enquiry and quotation, through order placement, plus all the quality requirements. Lestercast is ISO 9001-2000 and TS 16949 approved so works to high quality requirements, both on the parts manufactured and also within our internal systems."

"All our quality control requirements are held on the system, and reports are generated by various engineers or managers as they require them," Batty continued. "A key part of the system is that it uses 'Crystal Reports' to generate all of the reports required. The main reports were produced in the beginning by Synchro when they installed the system, but the beauty is that some of our personnel are

now trained and can produce their own reports easily, without ever having to touch the main software data."

Batty noted the system produces the production sheets on colored card; these are also printed with a barcode to be used for booking and data acquisition during actual manufacture. "We have installed flat screen TV's in each department, and by scanning the bar code, a picture or video will appear on the screen with instructions of how to process the part in that department," he said. "Our whole business is integrated around the Synchro³² package.

"One of Lestercast's main priorities is on-time delivery and we are able to monitor this very easily and ensure that we are achieving our targets of over 95% on time."

With offices in USA, UK, Spain, Germany and Brazil, Synchro³² is international in scope. "We create partnership/relationships; this in our view is an absolute critical factor in the success of our customers and our software," Collins said.

For further information, e-mail enquiries@synchro32.com, or visit www.synchro32.com.

SYNCHRO³²
www.synchro32.com

Investment Casting Specific ERP Software
Making specific production control accessible and affordable!

NEW Single User License Available

Production Control, Incorporating Management Information, Accounts Link & Shop Floor Data Collection

All Inclusive
All Modules
All System Upgrades
All Technical Support
No Upfront Fee

Training
One-on-one via Internet
On site group sessions

\$100.00 Per User Per month

Next Exhibitions
FENAF '09
Sao Paulo, Brazil
Sept 22 - 25
Booth # 87

Investment Casting
56th Annual Technical Conference
Indianapolis USA
October 11-14
Booth # 35

AFI - Victoria '09
Melbourne, Australia
Sept. 27 - 30
Booth # 9

USA 1 800 323 2808
UK 0845 370 3232
EU 44 845 3703232
BRAZIL 31 3581 1516

www.synchro32.com
enquiries@synchro32.com