



Gaining a Competitive Advantage: Is ERP Really the Answer for Plastics Manufacturing?



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As a plastics manufacturer, chances are good you are challenged by ever increasing competitive pressures. Chances are also good you are challenged on a daily basis by increasing customer demands for faster delivery, higher quality and lower costs. Although you will most likely always face competitive pressures and your customers will always have high expectations, there is a way to manage against these challenges and to come out on top.

What is the answer?

The answer is the effective use of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) technology. That means finding an ERP system that not only meets your administrative and operational needs, but also meets the unique requirements of plastics manufacturing. A comprehensive ERP system goes beyond the standard software packages for the plastics industry and provides real-time visibility to data across your entire organization.

What should you look for and expect from an ERP system when it comes to running your business?

It is not about just entering transactions; it is also about turning those transactions into information for faster, well-informed management and decision making. A true ERP system should increase productivity by helping your employees follow consistent processes, as well as make it easier to connect with customers, suppliers, and other employees.

Typical ERP systems include basic functionality to run the Administrative and Operational processes of your business out-of-the-box, such as financials, human resources, procurement, etc.

However, a comprehensive ERP system will also include functionality for managing:

Customer Relationship Management (CRM)	Full Sales and Marketing customer life cycle from prospecting to quoting to cash and beyond.
E-Commerce and Enterprise Portals	Users access their data in your ERP system through a web browser.
Business Intelligence	Real-time access to key information such as reports, charts and key performance indicators.
Enterprise Content Management (ECM)	Document capture and retrieval capabilities integrated into the system.
Workflow Automation	Workflow automation capabilities.
Role-Tailored User Interfaces	Job specific data, alerts, task lists, and reports to improve individual productivity and decision making.
Extensive Audit Trails	Complete visibility and audit trails with electronic signature functionality.

What about plastics industry specific requirements?

As with most industries, plastics manufacturers have their own set of unique requirements and processes. A comprehensive ERP solution should also include functionality to support:

- Customizable Item Masters
- Formula Management
- Flexible Planning Tools
- Production Scheduling
- Detailed Production Cost Analysis
- Manufacturing Execution Systems
- Inventory and Order Tracking
- Integrated Quality Control
- Lean Manufacturing

How can this help you gain a competitive advantage?

A key factor in staying ahead of your competition is having visibility and access to real-time key information and processes across your entire organization so you and your team can make faster, well-informed management decisions. In addition, having all of your data in one system helps streamline process control, reduce inventories, improve customer service, and provide a more positive return on your investment (ROI).

What business management system meets all of these requirements?

That's an easy answer – Microsoft Dynamics AX for Plastics Manufacturing from Ellipse Solutions. AX for Plastics is a comprehensive Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) business and productivity solution. It provides the tools needed to manage the administrative and operational processes of the business, in addition to proven industry-specific features and functionality.

With AX for Plastics, all aspects of the business and manufacturing process are smoothly integrated into a single solution – from production to inventory control to order entry and invoicing – thus allowing for a comprehensive, single view of the entire organization. Just like Microsoft's other familiar productivity tools (i.e.: Microsoft Word, Excel, etc.), Microsoft Dynamics AX for Plastics Manufacturing uses the same familiar, intuitive interface, reducing training and speeding up the rate of adoption.

Concerned about your future growth? AX for Plastics is designed to scale with the growth of your business. It is simple enough to deploy for a single business unit in a single country, yet easily scalable to support requirements for multiple countries, currencies, time zones, and languages, as well as compliance with multiple banking and reporting standards and legislative codes.

In summary, when it comes to gaining a competitive advantage, ERP really is the answer for plastics manufacturing, and Microsoft Dynamics AX for Plastics Manufacturing from Ellipse Solutions is at the top of the list of ERP systems.

About Ellipse Solutions

Ellipse Solutions is a Microsoft Dynamics Gold ERP Partner, specializing in business solutions, software development and implementation consulting services. Their commitment to serving plastics manufacturers is delivered through a combination of industry expertise and a deep understanding of next-generation software offered by Microsoft.



Ellipse Solutions Microsoft Dynamics AX for Plastics Manufacturing is a comprehensive ERP system specifically designed to meet the unique needs of the Plastics manufacturing industry.

For more information, contact Ellipse Solutions at (937) 312-1547, at solutions@ellipsesolutions.com or visit their websites at www.ellipsesolutions.com or www.axforplastics.com.