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Exclusive

June 25, 2009

The Case for Quality Lifecycle Management

One of CIMTEK's customers is a global OEM who uses Magellon Quality Lifecycle Management software to manage the quality and efficiency of their electronics manufacturing operations with a number of globally distributed Contract Manufacturers.

The customer's product lines span a wide range of complexity from single board consumer-focused to large, multi-board rack systems.

The Magellon Manufacturing (MFG) module was initially selected as an engineering tool used to help analyze data during New Product Introduction phases of the production cycle, but usage has since expanded to become a "business critical" application which is currently deployed at 7 remotely distributed contract manufacturer facilities.

The customer's Test Engineering department is responsible for New Product Introduction, Industrialization, and sustaining test, for a large portfolio of complex electronic products.

The department makes heavy use of Magellon in a number of ways:

1. To provide remote access to test stations to debug production halting issues.
2. To provide 2nd/3rd level support to debug technicians at the CM facilities.
3. To deliver test executables to all facilities at the same time.
4. To monitor production to detect trends, identify unnecessary test step processes and to execute corrective actions.

A recent test time reduction study carried out by the System Test team in the department, yielded the following test time reductions:

| Group | Number of Products | Pre-optimization test Time (Min) | Current Optimized Test time (Min) | Reduction in Min | Reduction as % |
|-------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| A | 2 | 276 | 70 | 206 | 75% |
| B | 30 | 343 | 174 | 164 | 50% |
| C | 54 | 291 | 128 | 151 | 55% |

Magellon data was extensively used to provide empirical data on test times and identify opportunities for time reductions and test step elimination.

The corresponding increase in capacity avoided capital expenditures in the order of:

| Group | Cost Avoidance (SUS) |
|--------------|----------------------|
| A | 156,000 |
| B | 2,173,000 |
| C | 1,140,000 |
| Total | 3,469,000 |



Chris Rehl, Director of Marketing, CIMTEK

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The intangible savings associated with use of the Magellon system are incalculable. A small number of Engineering Support Specialists are able to support many manufacturing sites, either in country, or those located in globally distributed locations, from the home office.

The cost avoidance is associated with travel, prompt rectification of manufacturing issues and the corresponding reduction of production down time, and the ability to monitor production and initiate corrective actions to rectify problems before they become issues.

Other cost savings have been realized in yield improvements and associated efficiencies.

The customer has reported an observation that "a 1% increase in yield leads to a 1% decrease in labor costs and a 1% decrease in material costs."

Empirical data provided by Magellon is also used to present potential design issues to R&D and initiate corrective actions such as ECOs and deviations. Costs savings associated, while significant, have not yet been rigorously analyzed.

Chris Rehl, Director of Marketing
CIMTEK

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