

Fourmark Manufacturing

Injection Molder Integrates CMMS Software with Data Acquisition Technology and Enjoys Higher Efficiency, Less Need for Repairs

Fourmark Manufacturing is one of North America's premier custom molding tool suppliers. The Ontario-based company has invested in the latest injecting molding machines, advanced robotics, and automation systems to engineer complex prototypes and products in rapid time. To stay competitive and meet high-volume demand, the company realized it needed to optimize the way its preventive maintenance activities were being scheduled. Without a robust CMMS in place, repairs were getting pushed back for various reasons and causing unnecessary interruptions in production.

Client Challenges

- Increased production downtime
- Reactive to maintenance needs
- No tracking of asset life cycle
- Limited tracking capabilities for preventive maintenance
- Preventive maintenance based on calendar versus asset utilization
- Manual processes

COAST Solution

Fourmark was a long-time customer of Syscon International, an industrial controls leader, already employing Syscon-PlantStar data collection modules throughout its plant to capture a wealth of product information, including scheduling, product specs, uptime hours, cycle efficiencies, customer order status, and more. Syscon-PlantStar introduced COAST to Fourmark and proposed a full integration to track and manage the company's preventive maintenance activities which were not part of the Syscon offering.

While planning the integration, the customer requested that a preventive maintenance solution be developed based on operating hours of the molding machines, rather than calendar-based scheduling. COAST agreed the equipment utilization method was the best way to ensure Fourmark conduct maintenance only when needed, rather than doing so too frequently, wasting time and money.

How integrating CMMS software increased a custom injection molder's efficiency rating from 85.6% to 92% while cutting its repair needs



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Results

Since the integration, Fourmark has increased its efficiency rating from 85.6% to 92%. The company evaluates its operating equipment effectiveness based on uptime efficiency, scrap rate, and cycle efficiency. In addition, the customer's rate of completed work orders for routine maintenance increased from 70% to 91%, while its frequency of repairs dropped by 15%. These improvements are attributable to the precise, real-time information offered by COAST's CMMS and Syscon-PlantStar's data collection system.

The project demonstrates just how seamless the CMMS process can be, especially when combining proven technologies. By accessing the customer's server remotely, COAST and Syscon were able to perform the integration without any interruption to the customer's operations. With COAST'S CMMS, Fourmark can perform real-time maintenance activities from a tablet or smartphone, even scanning QR codes assigned to assets. With the software-based technology, there was no need to invest in additional equipment or machine controls. Now the customer can effortlessly track everything from cost per machine, frequency of repairs, parts usage, cost per part, and even labor costs. Data-driven insights allow the company to plan for many different courses of action while filling all the preventive maintenance gaps that previously existed.



Fourmark Manufacturing's injection line is fully automated, and all machines are linked to COAST and Syscon web-based systems.

The Numbers

- Efficiency rating increase from 85.6% to 92%
- Rate of completed work orders for routine maintenance increase from 70% to 90%
- 15% reduction in frequency of repairs

"Now we have optimized systems to keep maintenance costs line. We are getting all the data we need at the time we need it with minimal interaction."

Tarek El-Sayed.
Fourmark COO



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