



Liberty OneSteel Steel Selects Prometheus Group to Provide Robust Functionality Inside SAP

Liberty OneSteel Steel is an integrated business that focuses on manufacturing, distribution and recycling. Considered the premier manufacturer of long steel products, structural pipe and tube, and wire products in Australia, Liberty OneSteel is the leading distributor of structural steel and reinforcing products in Australia with around 200 sites across the country. The company is also a significant supplier of scrap metal to foundries, smelters and steel mills in Australia and internationally.

The company thrives on creating strong and durable materials for infrastructure. In this case study, we'll explore how Liberty OneSteel's Whyalla operation took a hard look at its own internal planning and scheduling infrastructure to better improve processes and improve agility.

Challenges

Liberty OneSteel's Whyalla operation was looking to move away from a legacy planning and scheduling system that had been in place for nearly 20 years. The technology had outlived its usefulness and was not sophisticated enough to meet the company's requirements. Users developed their own workarounds with multiple tools to schedule work, resulting in inconsistent processes and inefficiency. For example, users had to export data out of one tool, then manipulate it in a third-party program, and then import it back into the initial master data tool. Besides the risks of data integrity that come with moving data in multiple programs, the company's processes suffered because they lacked a dynamic view of work being done. They needed a real-time view of planning and scheduling.

The company's strategic goal was to move all its sites to SAP where possible and with a minimal impact on business processes. A decision was made to move to SAP to have more aligned business processes, and from a PM perspective, improve plant maintenance planning and scheduling. However, they did not

stop there since the existing Liberty OneSteel SAP solution was not a fix-all. A top requirement among Plant Maintenance users was to have the ability to print documents such as work orders, PRTs and documentation in SAP. These papers are crucial to technicians in the field – and often required to be on-site to maintain statutory and quality requirements. Standard SAP did not provide an easy way to compile documents and print. Users wanted a printing solution that was simple and did not require complex customization within SAP. And they wanted a solution that was as close to out of the box SAP as possible, thus avoiding expensive customization costs initially and for future updates.

Solution

A key stakeholder in the project knew that to get the most out of the SAP PM investment, the company needed a printing solution that was robust and worked within SAP because “it doesn’t make sense to go backward.” Liberty OneSteel selected Prometheus Group’s ERP Advanced suite, which had key features including:

- Print Manager – facilitates the creation of PDF work packages in SAP by allowing users to gather all documents related to work orders on a single screen.
- Navigator – simplifies navigation in SAP. With buttons that allow users to call a variant, skip a selection screen, and auto load layouts in one click, it eliminates the need for users to memorize transaction codes and variants.
- Scheduler - gives SAP PM users the ability to visually inspect and graphically schedule work orders in a Gantt chart view. By eliminating the confusing process of completing multiple SAP transactions to accomplish a simple task, Scheduler helps improve workforce efficiency.
- Work Order Mass Change (WOMC) - allows users to swiftly alter work orders and operations via a list edit. With this scheduling tool users can change more than 140 fields in a work order all at once, removing the need to repeat the same action for 100-plus fields.

Prometheus solutions did not require customization and deployment was swift. Only minimal training was required because of the solutions’ ease of use. “Everything worked well from day one,” one user said.

Results

While printing capability was a main driver for the Prometheus solution justification, the company soon realized the value of having Prometheus tools such as the Navigator. One user said, “Navigator has been a huge success story for us. It really helps beginner SAP users or those who aren’t using SAP daily.” They set up the Navigator to reflect the actual process flow within the plant, ensuring stable processes and consistent results across all users. And Liberty OneSteel made it even more intuitive by naming the buttons with a local descriptor such as “your orders”. Users were also enthusiastic about Mass Change, citing they saved 20 minutes per work order versus having to change each work order individually.

User acceptance of the Prometheus solutions was very positive. The company considered the Prometheus deployment a success based on how easily users embraced the tools and how the enhanced usability made planning and scheduling quicker. The company saw the planners' adoption of SAP rise, as well as utilization of best practices improve. For example, Liberty OneSteel moved from the work order level to the operations level, creating more collaboration and visibility across the teams. Liberty OneSteel was able to achieve its goal of improving consistency among all teams. One user described the Prometheus solutions as "an enabler to get everyone to follow one process."

About Prometheus Group

Prometheus Group is an enterprise application software company specializing in improving the usability and user adoption of SAP plant maintenance. Developed jointly with end users, our software enhances the customer experience with intuitive functionality, graphical visualization, and simple processes. Our certified solutions "live" inside of SAP and enable companies to increase productivity, reduce costs and improve reporting.