

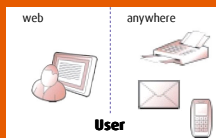
Case study: Teconnex speeds up production processing

ResponseTime™ Alerts

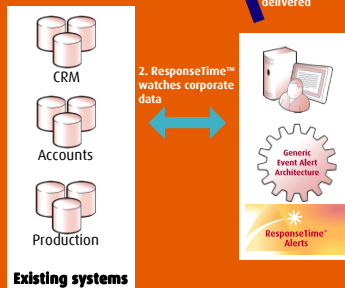
ResponseTime™ Alerts monitors business systems for changes in the data. When changes occur, alerts are generated and instantly delivered to the appropriate people via e-mail, SMS, etc.

Once installed, anyone in the business can set up alerts in minutes using a simple web browser interface to monitor data that is important to them.

ResponseTime™ Alerts will work with any business system which, like Alliance/MFG, uses the Microsoft SQL server database platform – such as Microsoft Axapta.



1. User chooses important info
3. When chosen condition occurs, alert delivered



Benefits

- Rapidly deployable
- Adds capability to existing systems without modification
- Easy and quick to use
- Web user-interface
- Rapid return-on-investment

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Alerts for production cell synchronisation give Teconnex leaner production processing

Teconnex Ltd, a leading UK manufacturer of specialist clamps for demanding automotive and aerospace applications, now has immediate notification of works order completion as production progresses through the factory, synchronising and initiating production from each upstream production cell as components are needed by the next. This enablement of 'pull' production processing removes the costly build-up of work-in-progress inventory and gives instant visibility of symptoms of production line problems.



The business challenge for Teconnex

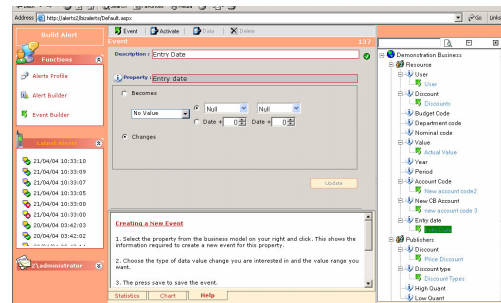
To achieve increased productivity and competitiveness, Teconnex wanted to extend its computer systems to support the introduction of a lean manufacturing approach, moving from a 'push' basis to a 'pull' basis. Initially Teconnex started using a 'ticket' approach for pulling make-to-order components to ensure orders were completed on the scheduled date, with tickets passed manually between cells.

Mark Watson, Material & Planning Manager observes that "Typically, with our old approach we would only know there was a problem when components were not collected by the next process in the line and work began to pile up. If there was a problem in a down-stream cell that held things up, supplier cells had no way of knowing that they needed to slow down."



The solution – ResponseTime™ Alerts

Teconnex has historically used the Alliance/MFG database system from Exact Software UK Ltd for material requirements planning (MRP-II) and this system suits their small batch production setup where jobs can change very quickly. ResponseTime™ Alerts was introduced as an addition to Alliance/MFG to monitor the works order segment completion and inventory changes and then send automatic alerts to the preceding production cell giving instant notification to both the production management and each cell.



ResponseTime™ Alerts was deployed out-of-the-box within a single day onto the existing Microsoft SQL Server database. A further day was spent identifying the data to be monitored, building the business model and structuring the alert events. The system was then operational and ready for roll-out across the production team – with no changes to the MRP system.

New alerts can be set up in minutes through a web browser interface, allowing Teconnex to easily experiment with different ideas and assess their effectiveness in real time to identify the optimum approach. Mark says "It's really good. Now, when I get asked about a problem I can look for immediate ways to take action by using ResponseTime™. I don't have to wait for someone else to write software."

The business benefits

Mark Watson says, "Successfully implementing a synchronised 'pull' production process is expected to yield some 30% reduction in work-in-progress inventory and in excess of 15% improvement in manufacturing throughput as well as a variety of other inventory savings. ResponseTime™ Alerts is a critical element in achieving this.

"ResponseTime™ Alerts works at a number of levels in the organisation. At a senior management level for investigating potential problems and at a lower, work flow, level for operational information. All with the same product.

"In the production processing area this product will pay for itself within 2-3 months. To apply it in other areas will not incur any further cost and we are already looking at using it in the accounts department.