



Supporting Key Initiatives for the Fabricated Metals Industry

Fabricated Metals manufacturers facing increased global pressure are stressed to find new efficiencies. Price sensitivity, volatile raw material cost, shorter product lifecycles, and adoption of quality and value added services continue to erode already thin margins. In response, many manufacturers are expanding their traditional business and looking for new opportunities—some in new and unknown markets and others centered in business performance. Lean initiatives are driving many manufacturers to reengineer business processes from the plant floor to the top floor to the extended supply chain. These same businesses are enjoying business-wide costs savings, reduction in raw material and work in process, improved throughput, and better utilization of existing resources, and improved customer satisfaction. Epicor understands the demands placed on manufacturers today.

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Epicor for Fabricated Metals is a global enterprise resource planning software solution designed for organizations that manufacture and distribute fabricated metal products to a variety of industries including; industrial machinery, automotive, aerospace and defense, electronics and electrical, medical device, energy, and more. Epicor is uniquely positioned to manage the requirements of these industries supporting simple-to-complex build plans, make-to-order, make-to-stock or mixed-mode environments with a single, comprehensive solution.

Improve Operational Visibility

Taking stock of core business operations in an integrated fashion is, for many manufacturers, the initial step in improving bottom line revenues through greater visibility of office and plant floor operations. Through integrated ERP technology, your business removes redundant processes and improves accuracy of information to provide better customer service and centralized operational management.

Epicor for Fabricated Metals is a completely integrated solution for managing your business. From Marketing and Sales through Production and Planning, Sourcing, Procurement, Customer Service, and Finance; modular in its design Epicor for Fabricated Metals offers flexibility in deployment as modules can be purchased and “turned on” during appropriate phases of implementation.

Make Your Customer the Focus of Your Business

Many manufacturers find that partnering with a select group of customers is more profitable. Maintaining these highly developed relationships requires strong communication coupled with agility and flexibility to quickly respond to these customers change in demand while being able to quickly respond and supply these value-added services.

Epicor for Fabricated Metals offers a suite of functionality designed to assist your organization in putting the demands of your customer first. Through embedded customer relationship management (CRM) functionality, we ensure that all customer communication is fluid throughout the organization, providing complete workflow for each cost-based estimate with customer signoff as a stage of the initial design or estimate—closing the loop with customer service which logs each customer inquiry and provides comprehensive escalation workflow when needed.

Reduce Cost Without Compromising Quality

Many manufacturers are getting back to basics and looking to reduce waste with stronger cost control and management of key cost elements. Through efficient management of the buying process, today's businesses are using just-in-time (JIT) techniques for procurement of material. Additionally, buyers are looking for new ways to drive down margins with suppliers. Good forecasting and demand requirements provide better buying power. Epicor for Fabricated Metals includes inventory control alongside material requirements planning (MRP) and purchase suggestions capabilities to provide time phased material control to reduce material delivery just in time. Critical to the process are strong indicators of cost and post production cost analysis. Each production run is analyzed to determine total cost broken out by material cost, material burden cost, labor cost, subcontract cost and burden cost. Based on profitability and run analysis, production management can then determine if production planning estimates need adjustment for quoting and rerun the next time.

Cradle-to-Grave Product Traceability

While strict requirements for product and material traceability are more prevalent in highly regulated industries such as aerospace and defense and medical device, many industries today are requiring strong process control with lot and serial controlled inventories throughout. Epicor offers a robust solution that tracks materials as well as finished and semi-finished products cradle to grave.

Maintain Supplier Status Through Delivery Performance

Long-term customer relationships are the bread and butter for this industry. Maintaining supplier status is based on measurements of not only cost and quality, but delivery performance is also critical. For many manufacturers, production visibility, in particular the schedule of the plant, has outgrown the traditional whiteboard. It now encompasses more expansive requirements such as “what-if” scenarios, multi-resource constraints, and in some cases as a result of workforce diversification, capability-based scheduling (whether employee skill set or machine capability). With visual scheduling boards and multi-resource scheduling boards that offer color-coded load, drag-and-drop load capabilities, and drill-down functionality, master schedulers as well as production managers can accurately manage change and respond to overload constraints proactively.

For manufacturers responding to the question, “When can you deliver?” during the sales cycle, Epicor offers true capable-to-promise capability that absorbs the requirements for the sales order into the schedule using appropriate finite capacity and MRP rules to offer an accurate delivery date. Simple acceptance of the sales order moves the requirement into production and procurement.

Use Lean Methodology and Demand Pull Systems to Improve Lead Times and Reduce Waste

Innovative manufacturers who deploy lean methodologies business wide reap huge benefits in terms of customer satisfaction and overall business performance. For manufacturers looking to reduce wasted processes from the office to plant floor, integrated systems streamline business processes. Additionally, support for cell-based strategies to support key customer requirements as well as on the plant floor, deploying demand pull systems that are based on replenishment principals further JIT material and component efficiencies. Epicor for Fabricated Metals contains embedded lean activity metrics and Kanban functionality (i.e., signal to manufacture or move product) that offers the functionality required to manage several types of electronic signals for Kanban control.

Regulatory Compliance

On top of the other challenges facing manufacturers of fabricated products, a new set of governmental and industry mandated regulatory requirements that demand tight control of manufacturing process and traceability along with strict business practices are further stressing organizations. From Sarbanes- Oxley to ISO/AS/TS/ QS standards, today’s manufacturer is faced with challenges that eat at the bottom line of their profits. The Epicor robust infrastructure coupled with its comprehensive quality suite offers a comprehensive approach to automating the compliance process.

Reduce Waste in the Supply Chain

More than ever, manufacturers are reaching down into their supply chains to eliminate waste and improve bottom line results. As global competition continue to drive cost down, supply chain partners are playing a larger role than ever before and proximity to suppliers can be a benefit. Many businesses are looking for ways to more seamlessly collaborate with suppliers for optimum results.

Epicor for Fabricated Metals promotes tighter collaboration throughout the supply chain while analyzing the same metrics that you are measured on, such as supplier shipping performance or quality ratings.

Looking for new efficiencies and measurements of supplier performance, look to automated processes for requesting RFQs or for sending change orders through electronic queues on supplier portals or more directly through EDI.

Support Extended and Global Operations

With competitive pressures driving many manufacturers to expand globally where labor is considerably less expensive and the recent trend in plant consolidations, many manufacturers today both large and small find themselves suddenly managing multiple sites disparately.

Epicor for Fabricated Metals has comprehensive multisite capabilities coupled with global presence to meet your company’s requirements for local support. Competing globally and domestically—bridging geographic and strategic diversity and eliminating supply chain inefficiencies—can be accomplished with the technologies to streamline intra- and inter-company processes and communicate quickly and accurately. Synchronization of complex relationships which determine supply, demand and fulfillment is the means to reaching new, industry-leading levels of business performance. Epicor for Fabricated Metals can help you achieve maximum efficiencies across your globally extended enterprise.

Robust Technology Framework

Epicor is uniquely positioned with a complete suite of applications based on 100% Web services technology, protecting your investment in software and services well into the future. Why are Web services so important to businesses, particularly in Fabrication? Outside of all the reasons organizations look to Web services for deployment; speed, stability, reusability, and more; for midsize manufacturers, the incentive is imminent to drive electronic collaboration more firmly into their supply chain. Web services collaboration is fast becoming a necessity to doing business. Supporting your business strategies with applications built on service-oriented architecture (SOA) keeps the door open for fabrication businesses by meeting both the immediate requirement for scalability while supporting an open philosophy in the event your business strategy changes. SOA simplifies the coming together of established infrastructures to make acquisition and merger less painful—attractive to companies looking to acquire.

Industry Leading Service and Support

Epicor has over 40 years of experience delivering industry focused, world-class solutions, and ongoing customer care and service to over 20,000 customer installations. It is a true global solutions partner with support offices all over the world. The key vehicle that transforms Epicor for Fabricated Metals into a successful business solution is our Signature Implementation Methodology. Signature allows Epicor to provide consistent, customer-focused implementations that deliver added value because it provides a controlled environment. It is a highly structured, proven implementation methodology that successfully guides you and your company through a six step process, from an in-depth analysis of your business requirements all the way to the hand over, enabling your company to quickly begin using Epicor for Fabricated Metals in day-to-day operations saving you time and money by providing broad functionality at a lower total cost of ownership.

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