Dyersville Die Cast

Summary
Dyersville Die Cast relies on the Odyssey enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution from B&L Information Systems to manage the majority of its operations, from tooling and construction, to process development, shipping and invoicing.

Dyersville Die Cast Boosts Productivity with Cloud-based Odyssey ERP

Delivering good parts on time and with impeccable quality is at the very heart of Dyersville Die Cast's business philosophy. Founded in 1970, Dyersville Die Cast is one of the largest non-automotive die cast manufacturers in North America. The company specializes in custom aluminum and zinc die cast manufacturing and offers secondary services such as CNC machining and powder coat paint.

For two years, Dyersville Die Cast has relied on the Odyssey enterprise resource planning (ERP) software solution from B&L Information Systems to manage its operations, from tooling and construction, to process development, shipping and invoicing. Built to meet the unique requirements of the die casting industry, Odyssey gives Dyersville Die Cast a single, integrated solution that maximizes productivity and efficiency, reduces costs, and delivers real-time visibility across the business.

"We chose Odyssey because it is by far the industry standard software for all of the foundries and die casters," explains Bob Willits, President of Dyersville Die Cast. "We wanted to partner with a company that understood the special requirements of our business, especially in regards to the tooling and

maintenance that go along with the foundry. Odyssey can support all of the industry-specific requirements and challenges we face."

Real-Time Visibility and Lower TCO with Cloud-Based System

Dyersville Die Cast is using Odyssey, hosted in the B&L Cloud. B&L houses the company's data on its secure servers and delivers automatic back up and disaster recovery via the B&L Cloud. B&L manages all security patches, updates and more, leaving Dyersville Die Cast more time to focus on its core business.

"The Cloud-based solution is perfect for our distributed business," says Mary Klostermann, IT Coordinator at Dyersville Die Cast. "We don't have to worry about setting up hardware and software in each building or location, managing updates and backups. We are free of the tactical, day-to-day maintenance and all of the expenses and hidden costs of managing an infrastructure."

Employees have the option to use both the desktop and the web-based versions of Odyssey, so they can access the data they want, when they want it, no matter where they are.

Odyssey Supports the Unique Requirements of Die Casting

Dyersville Die Cast customers spend millions of dollars on tooling that they entrust to the organization, which is why Odyssey's strong tooling maintenance capability is particularly valuable to Dyersville. With the company's previous system, everything was a manual work-around. Today, all of the information ties back into the company's production system.

For example, for one customer, Dyersville Die Cast is responsible for replacing the cavity inserts as they wear because they wear out so quickly. With Odyssey, they know exactly what the cavity shot counts are on a daily basis, so they can make accurate decisions in real time when a cavity should be replaced.

Odyssey Features Specific to Die Casting

At the heart of quality die castings is the tooling and die cast machine, and all the quality and business processes supporting them. Odyssey helps die casters monitor tooling cycles down to the cavity level and provides notifications when thresholds are exceeded. Managing post-casting operations of parts, including internal and out-sourced machining, painting, anodizing, etc. is an integrated part of the Odyssey ERP system.

- Odyssey software stores both the chemical and physical characteristics of each heat. Certifications can be printed either on demand or at time of shipment.

- Odyssey offers an integrated die tracking system. Total shots are kept on each die and review limits can be set. Dies that have exceeded review limits are flagged for inspection. Plus, family and combination dies are fully supported.

- Odyssey supports product price adjustments based on metal market.

Odyssey has made the tooling process much easier and transparent, which has improved communication with Dyersville's customers. "Odyssey has really allowed us to communicate at the drop of a hat with our major accounts on where we are on tooling," says Willits. "A lot of our customers have several dozen tools placed with us in very high volumes. They might be writing four different tooling replacement orders a month. It is a night and day difference from what we

were doing with our old system. Before, it could take a clerk hours to backtrack through production to find out how many shots we had on a tool. Now, we have all of that information at our fingertips, as well as how much we are spending on their tooling. Our customers are much happier with us."

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Dyersville Die Cast is using Odyssey's Shop Floor Manager to collect valuable production data including hours worked, quantity of castings, order number, and more right from the shop floor. Managers generate needed reports on a daily and weekly basis and share the information with employees.

"In the past, our employees wrote down the information, and we would key that into a spreadsheet," explains Klostermann. "Now, they scan their information right into Odyssey, which gives us real-time insight into productivity data. If the numbers seem off, we can quickly analyze why and then make adjustments to optimize our operations and boost productivity."

Automation Boosts Productivity and Efficiency

Using Odyssey, Dyersville Die Cast has been able to rein in some of their costs with the ability to identify

rates "leaks" beyond the department and down to the individual machine level. The Cloud-based Odyssey ERP system is also saving the organization in the direct and hidden costs associated with purchasing and maintaining software and hardware.

From a management perspective, Odyssey's biggest benefit is productivity. Odyssey gives managers and executives total visibility into production, so they know at all times if the company is on track with lead times. With real-time data, management has the agility to make the quick adjustments necessary to keep things moving forward and meet customer commitments.

The system allows them to track due dates on both the accounts payable and accounts receivable sides of the business on a daily basis. In addition to offering out-of-the-box reports, Odyssey also has a built-in Crystal Reports utility, which allows Dyersville Die Cast to customize standard Odyssey reports or even create their own output from scratch. Dyersville is committed to continued improvement and innovation.

A Future with Odyssey

Dyersville Die Cast has just scratched the surface in terms of using Odyssey and reaping the potential benefits of the metalcasting ERP solution. "With any

system implementation, you address those critical areas first and then look for additional ways to optimize operations," explains Willits. "We're moving pretty quickly and have no plans to slow down. We know there are a lot of things Odyssey offers that are going to be a great benefit to us once we take advantage of them."

Dyersville Die Cast recently implemented Odyssey's maintenance tracking module to analyze maintenance size and track against the equipment. The company will be able to know what's working and where they can make improvements. Their primary goals using the module are to know which work centers run which job the best, and to improve up time on their machines through a better preventative maintenance program.

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something. And if they don't have an answer right away, they will find one and get back to me quickly. We are never out there by ourselves; B&L is a partner in our long-term success."

To those die casters looking for an ERP solution, Willits says Odyssey is the best fit for the industry. "Odyssey was specifically designed for foundries and die casters. Out of the box, Odyssey addresses just about every need you could possibly have. We have realized tremendous benefits across our operations, and we are excited to take greater advantage of what the system has to offer in the near future."

Good software is just part of the story. Klostermann say the people at B&L are also a critical piece to ongoing success. "Odyssey has a very good support team. I know I can e-mail or call them anytime I need