



Spuncast Optimizes



Industry

Centrifugal casting foundry.

Products

Odyssey Cloud ERP

Summary

Spuncast relies on the cloud-based Odyssey enterprise resource planning (ERP) system to manage the majority of its manufacturing, quality, sales, finance, inventory, and data analytics operations.

Spuncast Optimizes Operations with Enterprise-wide Integration and Visibility using Odyssey ERP

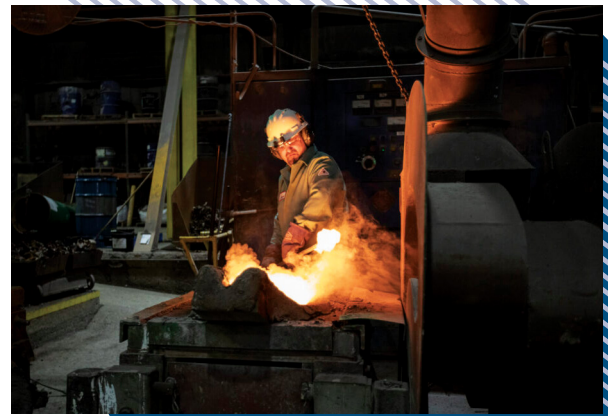
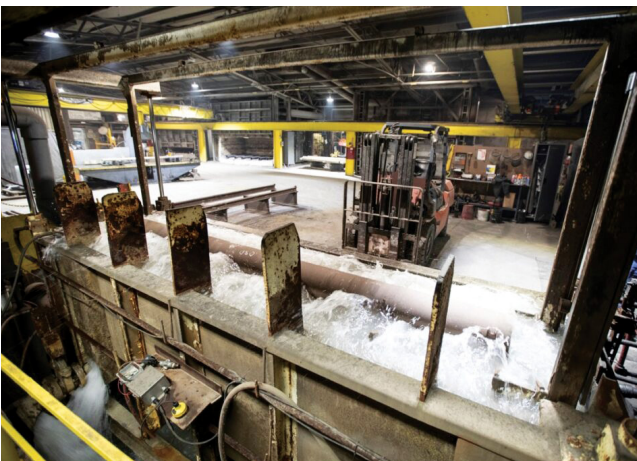
For over 45 years, Spuncast, Inc. has been focused on delivering quality to the highest degree. Headquartered in Wisconsin, the employee-owned and operated company leverages metallurgical expertise, centrifugal casting techniques, and a comprehensive understanding of its customers' needs to make high-caliber stainless steel cylinders for the world's most demanding industries. Spuncast's diverse capabilities include centrifugal casting, heat treating, CNC machining, metallurgical testing, and more.

All casting processes aren't created equal. Neither are the foundries that deliver them. Spuncast is unique in that it is primarily an engineered product manufacturer. Unlike many foundries that produce a product which is shipped to multiple customers, Spuncast essentially produces one-off projects using a die instead of a mold. Consequently, when it came time to choose a technology partner, Spuncast looked for a vendor that both understood their industry and was willing to make any necessary enhancements to meet their unique business needs, centrifugal casting and the ensuing assembly of those castings. Spuncast found that partner in B&L Information Systems.

For seven years, Spuncast has relied on the Odyssey cloud-based ERP system to manage operations across its manufacturing, quality, sales, finance, inventory, and data analytics operations. Rob Kluz, Spuncast's Quality and Safety Director, and Jody Naatz, the organization's Senior Accountant, agree there are three key reasons they value Odyssey for their business and would recommend it to other foundries looking for a solution:

1. Odyssey's cloud capabilities and access
2. The potential for streamlining and consolidating systems
3. Visibility and direct access to all data and reporting

"Since using Odyssey, we have been able to consolidate numerous systems into one integrated cloud solution," explains Naatz. "Having everything at our fingertips in one system is so much easier than having to go to four or five different places to find the information you need." Kluz agrees, saying "If you have multiple systems feeding each other, just one upgrade, can cause serious problems and broken connections. Then suddenly, we aren't receiving new shop orders or communicating what jobs need to be done. But with Odyssey, we have been able to streamline processes, improve accuracy and work more efficiently."



"With Odyssey, we have been able to streamline processes, improve accuracy and work more efficiently."

— Rob Kluz, Quality and Safety Director, Spuncast

With the ability to replace multiple systems with a single, integrated ERP system, Spuncast has optimized processes across its entire operations. Key capabilities and benefits include:

Odyssey Features Specific to Foundries

Foundries have unique challenges that require unique ERP software – foundry ERP software. Scheduling and coordinating core production, melt deck capacity and molding demands to customer requirements is a tough balancing act. Pattern inspection prior to releasing to production. Tracking casting inventory sent to outside suppliers for processing. These are all business processes the Odyssey ERP system addresses, as well as a myriad of others unique to the foundry industry.

Metal Certifications

Prior to Odyssey, Spunecast's certification process was troublesome. The organization was using an inflexible system prone to errors and vulnerabilities. "It wasn't seamless; we had to manually update and manipulate data to get the information we needed. With Odyssey, the process is now much smoother," says Kluz. Odyssey enables organizations to save time and eliminate data entry errors by importing data directly from their spectrometer. They can then print or email the certifications to the right contact, and have the flexibility to customize certifications to their customers' requirements. "We have auto feeds of the chemistry and conduct a daily review as the information is loaded in the system. When our products hit shipping, they're ready to leave—the certification has already been cleared and approved. That's been very helpful."

Shopfloor Manager

Spunecast is using Odyssey's Shopfloor Manager module, a flexible two-way communication tool with an intuitive, easy to use interface. The module gives supervisors the ability to present real-time work instructions at each machine, receive quality alerts, schedule priorities and other critical production information to the shop floor. Using Shopfloor Manager, organizations can also collect production data, including hours worked, quantity of castings, order number, scrap, and more from the shop floor.

"We designed the screens so folks on the floor can punch in on a job and see all of the jobs that are on a particular machine along with instructions on what they need to do for that order," explains Kluz. "Supervisors don't have to put together schedules and send out emails – it is all in the system. They also have visibility into what operation the job is on and for what duration. This level of visibility is a tremendous benefit."



Scrap Control

Odyssey's scrap control feature helps customers prevent scrap from getting out of control and hurting profitability. They can avoid costly rework and dissatisfied customers by identifying the root cause of high-scrap jobs so they can fix the problem. Customers can compare actual scrap to estimated scrap, view scrap by product, molding line, pattern, die and metal, and capture the work-in-process value up to the step when the part was scrapped.

"The ability to run reports monthly to look at what we've scrapped out is very helpful. Managers can identify possible trends we need to be concerned with. And if there are issues, we will issue CARS to document and control our continuous improvement from an ISO standpoint as evidence if we get audited."

Heat Number Tracking

Odyssey enables customers to safeguard the consistency of their heats to ensure parts meet customers' requirements. "We are very sensitive to heat, so it's incredibly important for us to do heat number tracking for every batch," explains Kluz. "Using Odyssey, every batch of metal we produce has a unique identifier like a serial number." With the ability to track castings back to specific heats, organizations like Spunecast can pinpoint problems and reduce the rate of defective product.

Urgent Note Cards

Because of Spuncast's low volume high mix of products, Kluz says the ability to use urgent notes is highly valuable. For example, if someone is working on a product and identifies a problem that has a big risk potential or is otherwise concerning, they can put an urgent note in the system for the next person tasked to work on the same project. It may be five years before that happens, but when it does, reminders will pop up for the worker letting them know what to watch out for to mitigate any possible issues.

"This capability is great for quality control and customer satisfaction, says Kluz. "It helps us close the loop. While we will take corrective action once we identify any issues, we won't know if it was effective until we make the product again. With the urgent notes, you can put your best efforts in place to cement the changes solidly in place, and then just close the order and move on."

"B&L has always been willing to work with us on personalization and enhancements to help us optimize our processes. Their people are very helpful and willing to work with us to continue to make our business better."

— Jody Naatz, Senior Accountant, Spuncast

Continued advancements with Odyssey

Naatz says there are numerous Odyssey capabilities they are not taking advantage of, but they hope to in the future. Currently, she and Kluz are working with B&L to move away from their original time and attendance program used to track hours worked and vacation information. "By integrating time and attendance into Odyssey, everyone will be able to log into their dashboard and see how many hours they have of vacation – how many they have used and how many they have remaining. People will no longer have to call HR, which is a great time saver for HR and for our users."

Both Naatz and Kluz say the people at B&L have been great to work with, especially on numerous enhancements they have requested over the years to fit their unique business needs. "Our business is different than many other foundries," says Naatz. "B&L has always been willing to work with us on personalization and enhancements to help us optimize our processes. Their people are very helpful and willing to work with us to continue to make our business better."

About Spuncast

Spuncast, based in Watertown, WI, produces custom metal casting tubes for specialty applications. Since 1976, their employee-owned and operated company has been committed to igniting opportunities for their customers and their end users. They leverage metallurgical expertise, centrifugal casting techniques, and a comprehensive understanding of their customers' needs to make high-caliber stainless steel cylinders for the world's most demanding industries. www.spuncast.com

About B&L Information Systems

B&L Information Systems is the global leader in cloud-based Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software for foundries, die casters and investment casters. Since 1976, B&L has implemented their unique ERP solutions at over 500 metalcasting operations, making their cloud-based Odyssey ERP match how metalcasters operate. With Odyssey, metalcasters maximize their resources, minimize costs, and make better decisions faster. www.blinfo.com

About Progress Software Corporation

Odyssey SaaS is based on the Progress Software Corporation's OpenEdge application development platform, an unbreakable technology platform that has been powering over 47,000 businesses for more than 30 years. By focusing on factors such as performance, cost, reliability, scalability and ease of maintenance, Progress Software enables B&L to focus its efforts on functionality, trends, and metalcasting industry best practices. www.progress.com

