

best



Manufacturing and Distribution Overview

Insights for the life of your business™



“MAS 500 runs the whole show here at Centiv. The bottom-line benefits have been immediately evident. We've reduced operating costs by 30 percent while increasing our service levels by 50 percent.”

Jim Kearney
Vice President and CIO
Centiv, Inc.



MAS 500

Managing Distribution and Manufacturing with Insight



In today's challenging business environment, it's never been more critical that every aspect of your company be operating at peak efficiency. Locking in your competitive edge requires streamlining your operations and managing with insight. Unfortunately, most companies are so preoccupied with just getting by from month to month that they fail to recognize opportunities that would help them realize their potential for success. Distribution and manufacturing are two areas that can return the investment in strategic processes by improving customer satisfaction, lowering administrative and carrying costs, and responding to changing market opportunities and challenges. The MAS 500 distribution and manufacturing solutions are designed to help you maximize operational efficiency by increasing productivity and profitability. The advanced capabilities of these modules address many of the challenges you face in day-to-day operations while providing the management insights you need for continued success.

Bottom line — if you want to source, manufacture, and ship more products on time — and more profitably — than your competitors do, you need to equip your company with the MAS 500 distribution and manufacturing advantage.

[insight]

MAS 500

Capitalize on the Synergy of the Distribution Solution

The MAS 500 distribution solution is a robust suite of modules that work synergistically to provide advanced capabilities for tracking, managing and replenishing inventory through the entire distribution cycle, from purchasing to stocking, all the way through sales. The Inventory Management, Inventory Replenishment, Purchase Order, Sales Order, Advanced Kitting and eOrder modules integrate seamlessly so valuable data is always available when you need it — even on the Web. While each module works well independently, the complete distribution suite provides a solution that offers unparalleled efficiency and control. Specially designed features include comprehensive inventory demand forecasting, a Web-integrated product catalog, flexible sales and returns processing and automated procurement. The MAS 500 distribution solution empowers you to strategically manage every aspect of the distribution cycle from increasing your cash flow by reducing carrying costs to improving customer retention by stocking the products they need.

Inventory Control

With its warehouse-centric design, the Inventory Management module can help save you time and money. You can track costs and sales histories by warehouse and use multiple bins in the same warehouse for a single inventory item, which means you'll be able to quickly locate what your customers are requesting. You also retain complete inventory visibility by tracking your stock transfers within as well as between warehouses. Down time turns into up time since you'll be able to take orders while inventory cycle counting is being conducted. You can even attach images to inventory items and organize your products into a comprehensive catalog which translates to easy item lookup in both the sales and purchase order modules as well as online through eCustomer and eSalesforce.

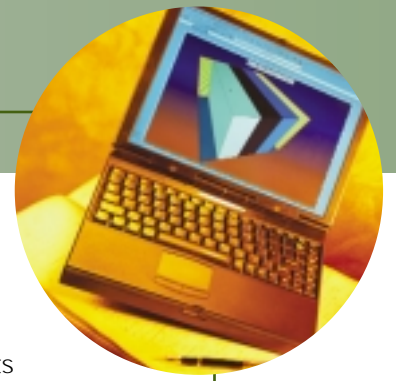
Forecasting

MAS 500 gives you the insights to maximize your profits by finding the optimal balance between accelerating inventory turnaround and maintaining adequate stock levels to meet customer demand. Inventory Replenishment features demand forecasting and automated procurement capabilities, which enable you to automatically generate purchase orders and warehouse transfers based on your inventory requirements. By tracking overhead costs and optimal purchase levels for vendors, you can combine orders so that you receive maximum discounts from your vendors as you minimize your overhead costs. Inventory Replenishment utilizes seasonal cycles, sales history and lead times to forecast the appropriate inventory levels that meet customer requirements while minimizing carrying costs.

Kitting

There are several options for kitting to meet your business needs. The Inventory Management module provides the ability to create pre-assembled kits that are ordered from stock, or to customize kits that are built to order. The Advanced Kitting module takes this a step further by providing the ability to incorporate labor costs into the kitting process and to create routings within the components.





Lot Control/Serialization

Comprehensive tracking capabilities enable distributors and manufacturers to trace lot and serial numbers backward or forward for complete traceability from receipt of goods through customer shipment. What's more, MAS 500 provides expiration date tracking for specific lots from receipt through production.

Multiple Locations

Companies with multiple warehouse locations will benefit from lower total cost of ownership with MAS 500. Customer orders or returns require only one transaction, even if the product is sourced from multiple warehouses or has different ship-to addresses, shipping carriers, or other requirements. Advanced three-step transfer features allow you to track shipments between warehouses and even accommodate discrepancy tracking between the shipping and receiving warehouses.

Online Ordering

The Web-based eOrder module puts critical information (order entry, recent shipment, order, payment, invoicing and customer credit information) at your sales team's fingertips whenever and wherever they need it so they can close more sales on the road, at home and in the office.

Purchasing

The Purchase Order module manages the requisition, purchase, and physical receipt of materials. It gives you the ability to track received goods by matching the delivery receipt with the invoice and the original purchase order. You're assured of tighter tracking, and more accurate inventory control within your warehouse. You can even tag incoming product against customer sales orders so that as product is received, it is immediately designated to customer backorders. In addition, manufacturers can tag a purchase order line to a specific work order operation. This feature enhances costing accuracy by taking actual purchase order costs for materials and subcontracted operations directly into work in process.

Returns

Multiple returns policies are easily managed. You determine if return material authorizations (RMAs) are required. Customers can return items from multiple orders on one RMA — even if you shipped them from different warehouses — saving your customers and employees valuable time.

Sales Orders

The powerful flexibility of the Sales Order module enables you to price inventory items based on customer class, location, discounts and more. Each line item can have its own ship-to address, sales person, tax rate, ship date, ship-from location and drop ship designations. Adding the MAS 500 Multicurrency module equips Sales Order to accommodate multiple currencies for easy entry into global markets and unsurpassed pricing flexibility. Manufacturers can also easily create work orders directly from sales order entry.

MAS 500

Manufacturing Productivity and Profitability

MAS 500 provides manufacturers with the flexibility and expanded capabilities to meet the diverse business requirements of varied industries including food and beverage products, metal fabrication, machine/equipment manufacturing, electronic or electric equipment assembly, high-tech products, stamping, injection molding, furniture/fixture production, and wood products manufacturing. One of the key advantages of the manufacturing suite is its streamlined integration of routings and bills of material, which allows for improved lead time calculations, more accurate material plans and better resource allocation. The manufacturing solution optimizes your operations for maximum productivity while it provides a real-time business picture that gives you the vision to manage profitability with insight.

Capable to Promise

Sales order entry includes a capable-to-promise (CTP) calculation, which utilizes on-hand and on-order data to quickly determine the specific date a desired quantity of product will be available. CTP is available for both distributors and manufacturers who want to enhance customer satisfaction by ensuring that customer service has the information they need to provide quick and accurate customer support.

Co-products and Disassembly

MAS 500 provides complete support for co-products and multiple parts produced per production order. Industries such as injection molding and stamping where more than one unique part is produced per production run, as well as, those where the same product is packed differently and stocked with separate part numbers, are uniquely positioned to capitalize on this feature. Manufacturers particularly like the flexibility of being able to use co-products to disassemble an item into base components.

Engineering Change Management

A routing/bill of material may be placed under engineering change control to track any changes made to the production standards. Members of predefined user groups are notified by e-mail when a change is made to an ECM-controlled routing/bill of material.

Estimating

Internal product structure and cost estimates can be custom created quickly from scratch or copied from an existing routing/bill of material, estimates, or work orders and are easily converted directly into a quote, sales order, or production routing/bill of material. Engineers can estimate multiple quantities with different markups to amortize setup and one-time costs across multiple quantities. Estimates may include labor, material, subcontracted operations, prototyping, special tooling and other costs.

Integrated Engineering

Engineering change management functions are integrated with e-mail systems and an import function is provided to transfer a bill of material from popular design programs to a routing and bill of material, which saves time by eliminating duplicate data entry and minimizing errors. Users can also access a built-in CAD viewer to see engineering drawings directly from the manufacturing system.



Labor and Production Reporting

Manufacturers have the flexibility to manage labor and production entries at the appropriate level for their operations. Management can direct resources with real-time inquiries to see who's working on specific jobs — even in multiple locations. Paperless labor assignments allow employees to see which jobs they've been assigned for their shift. Employees can report production on paper tickets for after-the-fact data entry. A production entry screen is also available for one-step labor and production reporting which streamlines the data entry process by automatically assigning — or backflushing — defined material and labor quantities, costs, and overhead.

Lot Control/Serialization

An easy to use lot-tree allows engineers to trace backward or forward from any given lot or serial number in the system to identify the lot or serial number's origins or where it was used in other production orders.

Material Requirements Planning

MRP is integrated with finite scheduling to provide a true closed loop system, which utilizes actual demand and transaction data from sales orders, purchase orders, inventory management, project accounting estimates and work orders. It also provides integration with demand forecasts for items based on advanced replenishment rules and formulas thus enabling more accurate material plans by item. Planners have total control over generation criteria including start and stop dates, planning bucket sizes and a demand time fence. Multiple MRP versions provide greater flexibility and simulation/comparison capabilities. MRP may be instantly accessed for material data from sales orders, purchase orders, work orders and inventory.

Process Manufacturing

Companies that manufacture food and beverage products, chemicals, primary metals, or other products that are mixed, blended or created from recipes have very specific requirements. MAS 500 enables many process manufacturers to easily and quickly manage co-products, shelf life, expiration dates, lot transactions, batch sizes and other process-oriented requirements.

Product Configurator

The Product Configurator module controls sales orders and bills of material by associating rules to build finished goods items. The configurator includes an intuitive interface for quick sales order entry of configured parts. The Product Configurator is a useful tool to determine which components to use, how much configured parts will cost, and how much to charge the customer. Product Configurator can automatically build new part numbers and bills of material, including all manufacturing requirements and instructions to make the configured part.



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Production Costing

MAS 500 supports Standard, Average, Actual (Lot), FIFO and LIFO costing methods. Costs accumulate in work in process during production and are subsequently posted to user-defined general ledger accounts. This data gives management the insight to quickly identify the profitability of each product line so that resources can be concentrated on the most lucrative opportunities.

Production Scheduling

MAS 500 provides ultimate operational flexibility through both finite and infinite production scheduling, as well as backward and forward scheduling. The system also accommodates up to nine different industry-standard scheduling rules and displays schedules in an easy-to-use drag-and-drop schedule board. Multiple schedule versions provide planners with powerful what-if simulation capabilities and allow for finite scheduling of machine and tooling resources — all without affecting the master schedule. This interactive tool empowers managers to hone in on production bottlenecks, immediately test possible solutions and make the best decision based on the insight of how it will impact the bottom line. Production scheduling fully integrates with the Materials Requirements Planning module so that material plans accommodate both scheduling capacity and material constraints.

Project Management

Streamlined integration of MAS 500 manufacturing and project management modules puts you in control of engineering and prototype production projects by equipping you with the tools and insights you need to easily assign resources to projects, track actual versus estimated costs through project completion, generate detailed estimates for customers and ultimately manage your projects more profitably.

Routings and Bills of Material

MAS 500 utilizes an integrated routing and bill of material to accurately calculate manufacturing lead times by taking into account both production cycles and material procurement. The manufacturing process is captured and standardized throughout the four key areas — material (bill of material items), labor, outside (subcontract) and other (miscellaneous operations and costs).

Shop Floor Control

Designed for use with bar code and touch screen technology, the shop floor control system can run on a terminal or from many handheld PCs or terminal devices. Shop Floor Control features start and stop job entry, work order inquiry, material/outside/other issues entry, receipt of goods entry, labor assignments, and access to other essential shop floor activities.

Work Orders

Work orders may be created manually or automatically using predefined standards in routings and bills of material. The work order inquiry provides a portal to view any information related to production orders including scheduled dates, production status, current activity, cost comparisons and production standards. Make-to-order manufacturers can create Work Orders directly from a Sales Order line for order-specific jobs.

MAS 500

Business Intelligence for Distribution & Manufacturers

MAS 500 Alerts keep you and your personnel “in the know.” This innovative product utilizes your e-mail system to notify you whenever something significant happens in your business system. You can configure your e-mail system to forward alerts to your mobile phone, pager or fax providing instant notifications for critical business issues — even if you’re traveling.

Alerts are critical for distributors and manufacturers who need to manage time-sensitive events such as maintaining adequate inventory levels, expediting late orders, and controlling production costs. Some of the key distribution and manufacturing alerts notify you when:

- A sales order gross margin is below a specified percentage.
- A sales order exceeds a chosen dollar amount.
- An item is late shipping from a warehouse.
- A quote is due to expire.
- The actual cost on a purchase order item exceeds the replacement cost by a percentage amount that you specify.
- An item is late arriving at a warehouse.
- A back-ordered item is received.
- A purchase order is created above a threshold dollar amount.
- An item is out of stock at a warehouse.
- An item is below its safety and/or minimum stock level at a warehouse.
- Excessive machine downtime is occurring.
- Work Orders are late and likely to miss the customer’s required date.
- Work Orders are running over or under cost, quantity, production time, or scrap by a specified percentage.
- A work center or machine has been down for an excessive amount of time (in real time).
- An employee forgets to log-out of an operation (in real-time).
- Work Orders are scheduled late on the schedule board.



“MAS 500 and MRP let us get our act together. We finally have inventory numbers we can depend on, far more on-time shipments and better quality throughout the company.”

David Palmerston
V.P. of Technology
Helical Products Company

MAS 500

Global Presence, Local Service



Over the last two decades Best Software, along with its parent company, has established itself as a global provider of superior accounting and business management solutions and services. Over 2.8 million discriminating customers and 26,000 resellers worldwide choose wisely by selecting Best for their software solutions. We create the software that transforms data into the business insights that help our customers succeed on all fronts. From creating innovative products that anticipate our customer's changing needs to providing exceptional customer support, we are dedicated to surpassing expectations in all aspects of our business. Rest assured that our software is supported by a nationwide network of specialists who are your resources for implementation, training, service and support. Our specialists are also trained and certified to provide Microsoft product and network expertise. In addition, we offer outstanding training classes, 24-hour online support, and award winning technical phone assistance.

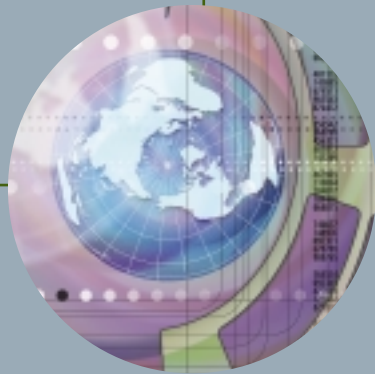
The Clear Choice for Business Management

At Best Software, we've made it our business to provide powerful, flexible and comprehensive solutions that help you build your business. With MAS 500, you have everything you need to streamline your business processes for maximum efficiency, productivity, and profitability. Whether you distribute durable or nondurable goods or you make-to-stock or make-to-order — MAS 500 is designed to provide you with the insights and management tools you need for success today, tomorrow, and well into the future. Find out for yourself why MAS 500 is clearly the best complete software solution for your manufacturing and distribution needs — **call us today.**



“ Installation was actually fun. The system ran so smoothly that I’ve had to do almost nothing to it. ”

Francis D’Mello
IT Manager
TS+B



“ We’ve trimmed 10 percent off of manufacturing costs. We’re saving another 20 percent in administrative labor. And Best’s MRP system helped us cut raw goods inventory in half, with corresponding benefits to our cash flow. ”

David Tompkins
Manager of IS
SpecPrint, Inc.



FPO
Business Card
with rounded tabs

Best Software is committed to helping our customers manage and grow their businesses by being the leading provider of exceptional business management software and services supported by a network of high quality business partners.

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