

WHITEPAPER



**THE BENEFIT OF AN MES
DESIGNED FOR FLAT
SHEET & ROLL-BASED
PRODUCTION VS A
GENERIC MES**



GREYCON

Experts in Planning, Scheduling, Trim & MES

Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES) can significantly improve the efficiency and optimisation of an operation, but not all MES's are created equal. A generic MES might allow for some initial gains in optimisation, but it can only go so far. By contrast, an MES designed to target the specific needs of flat sheet and roll-based production companies can achieve efficiencies at a much greater level. With this in mind, let's look at the benefits of an industry-specific MES vs a generic one.



What is an MES?

A Manufacturing Execution System (MES) is a software solution designed to promote efficiency and quality in the manufacturing process. They typically connect multiple manufacturing plants with live production information and integrate with machinery, controllers, and business applications like SAP. The aim of an MES is to enable total visibility over the production process to drive optimisation. Put simply, if your business needs to make more with less, then an MES can help you get there.

Why a Generic MES Is Not Meeting Your Needs

A generic MES is built to serve the needs of a variety of manufacturing companies across all sectors. As a result, they tend to offer a broad range of functionality but only on a surface level. Flat sheet and roll-based production companies typically have a specific set of needs and the processes that go along with them. Trying to get a generic MES to work in a niche sector can be like trying to fit a square peg into a round hole - you might get close, but it'll never fit perfectly.

While forcing the MES to stretch its functionality beyond what it was designed to do is possible, it causes a number of problems. Firstly, you'll likely have to continually program the software to make it fit for purpose. Over time, you end up with a version of the software that's dramatically different from the original and is challenging to manage - heavily altered software is vulnerable to costly failures. Secondly, making ill-designed software optimal is time-consuming and leads to diminishing returns. Achieving increased optimisations is unlikely over time.



Want to learn more?

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The Benefits of an MES Designed for Flat Sheet & Roll- Based Production

Industry-Specific Optimisation

Selecting an MES that is specifically designed for your industry ensures that your organisation is doing everything possible to optimise the production processes. The software is designed with the intricacies, constraints, and needs of flat sheet and roll based production in mind, so you never miss an opportunity to achieve greater efficiency.

Efficient Planning and Asset Utilisation

An industry-specific MES allows you to align the shop floor with the planning process, ensuring that all machines are utilised in the most efficient way, according to the current orders in the queue, materials available, and machine functionality. Since the MES is designed around the assets typically used in the industry, asset utilisation and operational efficiency are fine-tuned. This means that the software can highlight bottlenecks and idle times and monitor business performance with pinpoint accuracy.

Genealogy and Traceability

An MES designed for flat sheet and roll based production also gives you the entire genealogy of both products in production and finished goods. This visibility dramatically enhances the traceability of products as they move through the product life cycle, allowing you to easily identify where a product is right now and where it is heading. This also has the effect of improving the daily practices, and workforce collaboration as essential operational information is easily accessible on tracking screens, as well as easy to understand.



A System of Record

Maintaining a complete and retrievable record of your operations is paramount for any thriving manufacturing company. A generic MES might only allow certain things to be tracked, forcing you to maintain paper records alongside the MES. By contrast, an industry-specific MES can eliminate paperwork on the shop floor.

Streamlining and Scaling

Just because you're a small manufacturing company today doesn't mean you will be in the future. Even a large manufacturing plant can grow dramatically in just a few years. An industry-specific MES is much better equipped at handling streamlining and scaling than a generic MES.

Equipment Effectiveness

A non-generic MES promotes overall equipment effectiveness. Unplanned events and quality deviations are an unfortunate reality for any manufacturing company, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't strive to minimise their impact wherever possible. A flat sheet and roll based production MES is built with industry-specific machinery in mind and can therefore react quickly to unplanned events, re-trimming or re-planning as needed and at rapid speed.

If your generic MES is no longer meeting the needs of your flat sheet or roll based company, it's time to replace it with an MES designed with your company in mind. Reach out today to find out more about GreyconMill.

For more information please visit:

www.greycon.com