

Robertson Fuel Systems enhances visibility and business efficiency with IFS Applications™



Robertson Fuel Systems prevents post-incident fires in aircraft and ground vehicles by offering a wide range of fuel containment systems proven in battle by all branches of the United States military. To ensure quality products and the safety of those who protect us, Robertson enhanced its business systems to improve visibility and business operations.

A legacy of service and survivability

How do aerospace crash fires occur and why? This is the question that pioneered the development of crashworthy fuel systems at Robertson Fuel Systems. The company's founder, Dr. S. Harry Robertson, led a team of researchers in the late 1960s that pioneered the development of survivable fuel systems, enhancing survivability through fuel containment while preventing fuel-fed fires. Dramatic improvements in rotorcraft post-incident fire suppression from the Vietnam era to today are due in large part to fuel containment. This technology application has essentially eliminated thermal injuries and deaths in U.S. military and civilian helicopters. Robertson customers procure a solution, not just a product. Recognizing a similar need for safety on the ground, Robertson expanded its efforts to ground combat systems and now drives enhanced ground systems survivability.

Today, Robertson continues its passion for company-funded research to design, develop, deliver and sustain fuel containment systems that enhance the survivability of aircraft and ground vehicles. In an industry that is highly regulated with tight contract management and project management control, Robertson sought out a solution to improve business efficiency.

Seamless visibility generates business efficiency

As Robertson Fuel Systems legacy enterprise resource planning (ERP) system grew outdated, the defense manufacturing organization selected IFS Applications as its ERP system at multiple locations. "We were completely siloed in those days and were forced to bend to the system's limitations. Once we selected IFS, we implemented components of IFS Financials, Manufacturing, Supply Chain, Quality Management, Engineering, Projects, Maintenance and Defense Manufacturing Extension (DME)," said Najd Stanbouli, Pricing and Special Projects Manager of Robertson Fuel Systems.

About Robertson Fuel Systems

Robertson Fuel Systems prevents post-incident fires in aircraft and ground vehicles. Since 1976, our mission and legacy is to ensure the safety of those who protect us and to provide survivable fuel solutions on the ground and in the air.



By implementing components of IFS Applications™, Robertson Fuel Systems has integrated nearly all departments together to enhance business visibility. “Because we now have the integration of many departments, we have visibility that allows us to be proactive rather than reactive in many cases,” said Newman Shufflebarger, CEO of Robertson Fuel Systems.

Operating on a seamless solution provides visibility across the business. Robertson Fuel Systems experiences visibility from supply chain order, through contracts, the status of contracts, all the way through delivery and invoice. This visibility enables Robertson Fuel Systems to better plan and manage its business operations.

Greater manufacturing productivity

“The majority of employees were not in the legacy system.” said Stanbouli. “Moving from a paper system on the manufacturing floor to the use of IFS Applications has been a great benefit to our visibility and productivity.”

By moving away from a paper system, Robertson has experienced better use of production time. Robertson runs IFS Applications on rolling workstations with laptops and television monitors to increase information visibility on the floor. “With IFS, employees no longer need hardcopy drawings. Now employees can quickly open drawings electronically at their rolling workstation and ensure they have the correct document. IFS Applications has provided accessibility of necessary tools and documents for our employees,” said Stanbouli.

It all ties together. The system provides for less chance of error and provides more visibility to our business processes. It’s just a much better system overall.

Newman Shufflebarger, CEO of Robertson Fuel Systems

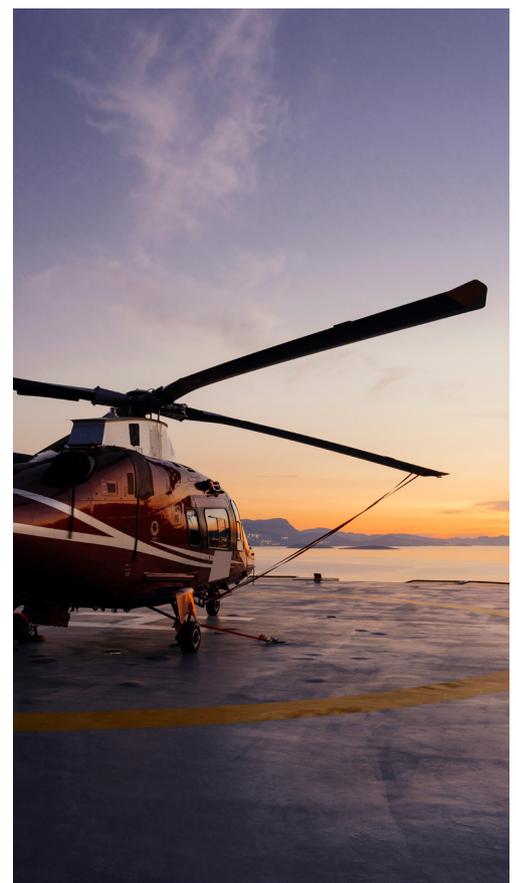
Hands on experience

With improved business visibility and a large percentage of employees using IFS Applications, Robertson has experienced increases in employee accountability. “Since employees are inputting their own work, as opposed to someone else inputting the data as we did in the past, there is a reduction in errors, a savings in time and employees are able to hold themselves more accountable for accurate data entry,” said Stanbouli.

Using IFS DME enables Robertson to keep track of contracts and keep information organized. All of the company’s orders are tied to specific contracts and cleansed. “All defense-specific items that couldn’t be accomplished in our old system are now accomplished easier with IFS,” said Stanbouli.

Benefits seen using IFS

- Increased productivity and efficiency on manufacturing floor
- Enhanced visibility leads to more efficient business processes
- Integration of systems– no longer stand alone
- Enabled more proactive business decisions





When comparing areas of the old system to areas of IFS Applications, employees are seeing improvements in processes. Robertson has reaped the benefits of many components of IFS Applications, but one stands out above the rest. “Our reporting capabilities are tremendous—not only from a finance perspective, but all department-specific reports,” said Stanbouli. “Even on-the-job training can be generated into a report for supervisors. They can build on-the-job training, assessments and supporting materials from a report.”

Not only are end-users and management seeing the benefits of IFS Applications, but when it comes time for audits, Robertson Fuel Systems has been complimented on the improvements and simplicity of Robertson’s processes. “When we have 3rd party audits come, we receive tremendous accolades about IFS Applications’ visibility. Auditors can go through the necessary information and conduct the audit more efficiently,” said Shufflebarger. “It all ties together. The system provides for less chance of error and provides more visibility to our business processes. It’s just a much better system overall.”

What’s next

With IFS, Robertson enhanced its business system to improve visibility and business operations. By continuing to ensure quality products and the safety of those who protect us, Robertson plans to upgrade to a more recent version of IFS Applications. “When it comes to the consideration of upgrading, it is refreshing to know IFS keeps improving and expanding its solution to deliver a great product to its customers. We definitely have an upgrade in mind and are excited to continue our business partnership with IFS,” said Stanbouli.

Software

- IFS Financials™
- IFS Manufacturing™
- IFS Supply Chain™
- IFS Quality Management™
- IFS Engineering™
- IFS Projects™
- IFS Maintenance™
- IFS Defense Manufacturing Extension™

Find out more

Further information, e-mail info@ifs.com, contact your local IFS office or visit our web site, ifs.com

