

MINCO PRODUCTS ACHIEVES GLOBAL ERP, QUALITY ASSURANCE MASTERY



A complex, global manufacturing operation, Minco is centralizing its operations on a single global instance of IFS Applications™. Quality assurance is critical for the industries Minco serves, and the company relies on the powerful, native quality management functionality in IFS Applications to streamline quality audits and operationalize quality findings into actionable corrective steps.

Minco makes extensive use of IFS Applications, from finance to shop floor to maintenance, running the vast majority of modules in the suite. As it operates in a multivariate environment, with most products engineered to customer order while others are built to stock, the company has a large number of active parts and adds new parts constantly as it copies the properties of existing parts and changes them to fit a new design.

Minco has operations in France, China, Singapore and Japan, and has brought these entities onto a single instance of IFS Applications in phases to ensure real-time visibility, control and collaboration.

“It just makes sense from a consolidated data and informational standpoint,” Minco Director of Corporate Technologies John Bredesen said. “We do not operate our offices as independent subsidiaries, but we do need to give some local autonomy. IFS Applications lets us set up different sites in the same instance of the software, giving us the flexibility to accommodate these regional differences along with diverse languages and currencies. As we have grown, we have actually been able to reduce the number of staff devoted to administrative processes, redeploying them onto other work.”

A FOCUS ON QUALITY ASSURANCE

Due to the mission-critical and highly regulated nature of Minco’s products and target industries, quality assurance is a top priority. Enhanced quality assurance functionality embedded as a native component in IFS Applications 8 was one reason Minco engaged with Enterprise Consulting to upgrade and leverage IFS Quality Management™.

They were handling quality effectively, but in an offline, manual fashion which is not unusual,” Enterprise Consulting Director of Sales Rick Rivett said. “They wanted to be able to use the IFS Quality Assurance functionality more fully. We showed them what was possible to achieve with the IFS Applications Material Review Board (MRB) tool, and helped to roll it out. Before, they were really good at identifying quality problems, but lacked an integrated process to take action.”

“Before we started using IFS Quality Management, our staff was recording non-conformance issues with a pen and paper or a spreadsheet,” Bredesen said. “Now, we can work through the MRB process, so if a corrective action plan is necessary, we can define it and make sure it happens. This is a major advantage for Minco because two of our target industries, aerospace and medical devices, involve frequent internal, customer and regulatory audits.”

ABOUT MINCO PRODUCTS

Minco Products delivers comprehensive engineered solutions for medical, aerospace, defense, oil and gas, power generation and other high-reliability applications. The company couples advanced product technologies, expert design and engineering services, and a clear understanding of customer requirements to provide unmatched quality, reliability and performance in thousands of applications worldwide.

www.minco.com



ABOUT ENTERPRISE CONSULTING

Enterprise Consulting is a professional services and management consulting firm specializing in enterprise software from optimization and improvements in your current software to implementation and integration of new software. Their long history and deep relationship with IFS has led IFS to entrust them with the ability to take the lead on upgrade projects and implementations. Enterprise Consulting is known for the high level of service they deliver and a long-term, satisfied client base.

www.enterpriseconsulting.net



IFS Quality Management is about more than spotting and fixing problems though—it also streamlines the many quality audits Minco is asked to conduct on behalf of its customers.

“Before, all of the audits were done manually in a file share,” Bredesen said. “There was no ability to pull or analyze data. It was not easy to find information and history. Tracking who had the actions for findings was difficult. Now, our Quality Manager can pull up our entire internal auditing schedule with whole audit plans and an audit chart. The findings become non-conformance reports (NCRs) and we can then track the actions and who is responsible for them so we don’t have things falling through the cracks.”

BIG DATABASE, BIGGER UPSIDE TO UPGRADE

Bredesen gives IFS Applications high rating for its ability to deliver enterprise agility, and for placing minimal demands on his company’s IT staff.

“I have had some experience with other ERP systems, both homegrown and from larger vendors,” Bredesen said. “IFS Applications is very configurable compared to the others. All the event triggers are already built into the base product, and with the number of APIs, a lot of configuration can be done to deliver customizations without increasing the cost to support the product. For anything we can’t or don’t want to handle internally, we look to our IFS partner, Enterprise Consulting.”

One other advantage of upgrading was the enhanced interface, IFS Enterprise Explorer.

“It gives us the ability to link from outside systems into IFS Applications with a URL, which is huge,” Bredesen said. “We created a page on our intranet devoted to quality, and you can just click a link and it fires up IFS Applications and takes you to a certain page or document. We can start with this page when we have an audit, see how many internal audits are closed, how many are open, and open audit documents right in IFS Applications where these processes are controlled. This provides easy access to our audits, customer-oriented procedures (COPs) and software process improvement documents, health safety and environment (HSE) documents like lock-out, tag-out procedures—even human resources documents on training and certifications necessary to prove we have qualified personnel completing critical manufacturing processes.”

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John Bredesen, Director of Corporate Technologies, Minco

AN ONGOING QUALITY JOURNEY WITH IFS APPLICATIONS

Given the extensive footprint of IFS Applications in Minco with the company running the vast majority of modules, subsequent steps will be incremental. One immediate priority will be going even further into the extensive quality assurance functionality offered by their enterprise software platform.

“Our current quality initiative is to improve our non-conformance processes everywhere in the production process,” Bredesen said. “We will be leveraging IFS Applications even more to manage these things as systematically as possible.”

The company is also planning to retain Enterprise Consulting to enhance financial rollups between its various global sites and configure the IFS Business Intelligence application to deliver enterprise-wide insight into operations.



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BENEFITS

- Global ERP across multiple continents
- Streamlined quality auditing along with the ability to take action within the system of record
- Reduction of staff resources spent on financial administration
- eCommerce portal integrated with inventory and ordering in IFS Applications

SOFTWARE

- IFS Applications™
- IFS Manufacturing™
- IFS Quality Management™
- IFS Financials™
- IFS Projects™

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