

MAS 500

CUSTOMER

Helical Products
Company, Inc.

www.heli-cal.com

CORPORATE PROFILE

Type of Business

Manufacturer of flexible beam couplings, machined springs, and U-joints

Number of Locations

One

Number of Employees

100+

SYSTEM PROFILE

Computer System

- Microsoft Windows NT network
- NT and Windows 2000 clients

MAS 500 Modules in Operation

- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Advanced Planning and Scheduling
- Cash Management
- Customizer
- eExecutive
- Engineering Change Management
- Estimating
- General Ledger
- Inventory Management
- Inventory Replenishment
- Material Requirements Planning
- Multicurrency Management
- Purchase Order
- Sales Order
- Shop Floor Control

Helical Goes Galactic with MAS 500 and MRP/DRP

F-22 fighters. Bowling pin setters. Pumps for human hearts. Baseball pitching machines. What do all these have in common? They're made with specially machined springs from Helical Products Company, manufactured with a proprietary process that converts solid bars of metal into flexible mechanical parts.

NASA used Helical springs in a mass spectrometer on the Mars Rover, the robot that explored the Red Planet. Anti-aircraft missiles flown by the U.S. Navy have Helical springs inside their firing tubes. With showcase applications like these, Helical now operates from a 30,000-square-foot California facility, and sells their products worldwide.

“One in a Zillion”

In 1997 Helical decided to replace its mainframe with networked PCs. That meant finding a new accounting system too.

“We looked at about a zillion products over a two year period, and most represented a major step down from our mainframe software,” says David



Helical Coupling and Machined Spring Solutions

Palmerston, vice president of technology. “But not MAS 500. It proved to be a high-quality solution with true enterprise-quality performance — and is more accurate, far easier to manage and much quicker than the processes we had in place before.”

At the time, however, MAS 500 did not offer a manufacturing module that could handle Helical's complex operations. After several years of struggling, Palmerston went looking for a legacy replacement — hopefully with the functionality he'd come to expect from Best.

CHALLENGE

Replace mainframe system with an enterprise-quality, business management system that offers accuracy, speed and efficiency and can handle the complexities of manufacturing.

SOLUTION

MAS 500 financial, distribution and manufacturing modules.

RESULTS

Precise tracking of 27,000 items; Streamlined integration; Seamless data flow (shop floor to management); Cut all manual steps; Improved scheduling and customer service; Accurate inventory and on time shipping.

“MAS 500 and MRP/DRP 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
Vice President of Technology
Helical Products Company, Inc.*

Springing Forward with MAS 500

He discovered that Best Software now offered Material Requirements Planning and Distribution Requirements Planning (MRP/DRP), a full-featured module in its manufacturing suite. MRP/DRP provides Helical with up-to-date item statistics including on-hand quantities, and performs calculations that quickly generate work orders for manufactured items and purchase orders for raw materials. It also uses historical data and advanced forecasting formulas for understanding current and future material and distribution requirements. Amazingly, the entire module was operational in less than three months, about half the time they'd anticipated.

The robust capabilities of Best Software's MRP/DRP allows Helical to account for about 27,000 different products, many of which are custom made. MRP/DRP handles all related inventory requirements, such as lot-tracking and cycle counting, so fast that it's almost real-time. It then delivers complete manufacturing data to MAS 500 for analysis. The result is a clearer picture for management.

“Best MRP/DRP permits tight integration between customer service, manufacturing and accounting groups, improving the communication of technical data from the shop floor to senior management,” Palmerston says. “All manual steps have

been eliminated — literally — because we used to have to walk up and down the halls looking for the right person with the right piece of paper. Now everything is in one place for anyone to access.”

Better communication translates into vastly improved scheduling and customer service. “MAS 500 and MRP/DRP let us get our act together,” Palmerston notes. “We finally have inventory numbers we can depend on, far more on-time shipments and better quality throughout the company. And the system is remarkably speedy, so information is not only accurate but also timely. Consequently customer service and inventory functions are up where we expect them to be.”

Palmerston also feels good about having an end-to-end system with Best. “This is a very solid package backed by a strong company, and we are confident using it to run our entire business.”



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