

25 years delivering dependable, global QAD Data Collection

THE COMPANY

Market leaders in the luxury vinyl tile (LVT) business, with a proud British heritage, Amtico has been designing, innovating and manufacturing flooring for over 50 years, flooring that is not only beautiful but flexible, comfortable and sustainable. LVT offers the look and feel of natural wood, stone or ceramic flooring, while being extremely durable and easy to install and maintain.

Amtico International originated as a joint venture in the mid-sixties between UK-based fabric manufacturer, Courtaulds, and American Biltrite Inc, with Courtaulds subsequently acquiring the whole UK business in 1969. Since then, the Amtico brand has been synonymous with high quality LVT flooring for both the commercial and residential markets, building both its manufacturing and distribution capabilities and forging a presence in over 50 countries.

As LVT became the fastest-growing market segment in the flooring industry, Amtico was acquired by flooring manufacturer, Mannington Mills, a privately-owned U.S. company, in 2012.

- Amtico invests in upgraded ERP and Data Collection systems
- Moves to cloud technologies to better support growth of the business
- Improves stock accuracy and traceability



Automotive



Consumer Products



Food & Beverage



High Tech



Industrial



Life Sciences

THE CHALLENGE

Working in partnership with Eagle for about 15 years meant that, when Amtico made the decision to upgrade to QAD 2015EE, Eagle were engaged as a key project partner. The Mannington Mills acquisition had naturally brought about a strategy review and a subsequent desire for business improvement, and the decision was made to upgrade Amtico's ERP system to QAD version 2015EE in the cloud. Eagle are QAD's only data collection partner able to support a QAD cloud environment.

Simon Smith, Head of IT at Amtico, sums up the situation concisely. "We'd been looking to upgrade for some time, but needed to achieve this efficiently, quickly and cost-effectively. The product was last upgraded 10 years ago in 2005 and the system had been static since then. The business had grown significantly over this 10-year period and the complexities of the business had increased as well, so we needed to move to a more sophisticated system, one that could support the growth of the business better."

HOW EAGLE MET THE CHALLENGE?

Amtico was previously hosting the system on-site, with aging infrastructure and a reliance on IT to keep this ticking over. The decision was made to move to a cloud-based system, removing the infrastructure risk and alleviating disruption that a system failure could have on production.

Some of the challenges inherent with the implementation were already familiar to the Eagle team from past experience and the good working relationship already in place with Amtico and its workforce. With support from Eagle's team, Amtico put

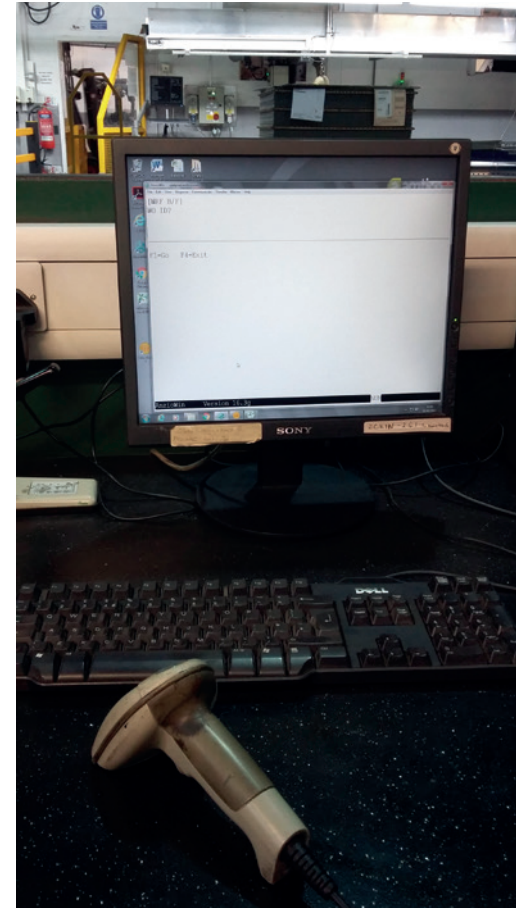


in place a project with Eagle, adopting the QAD 'on-boarding' approach, whilst retaining some existing functionality.

Martin Stott, Amtico's Project Manager, recognised the opportunity for label design. "We realised we could re-design labels to make them more appropriate to the business. The print film and Calender roll labels now have tear-off strips which correspond to the tear-off label attached to the core: in the past a label attached to the outside

of the roll could get dislodged, now it will last the lifetime of the core".

However, the biggest area of change was the focus on production recording across four main areas: Pigment, Calender, Rotacure and Finishing, the first three being repetitive processes, whereas the Finishing process is a work order receipt backflush. Repetitive Production lines have unique consecutive recording for items produced.



Martin explains the process "With the production recording, we moved to a repetitive production model, which, with back flushes, enables far greater stock accuracy. It also allows us to introduce some new characteristics which allow the production lines to have a unique and consecutive recording for the items they are producing. The other change in terms of production reporting was with the discrete works order process, where we introduced a subtle change to the program: not only does it work for the production where we've issued the discrete material using the Eagle works order, but also where the material that wasn't issued, that was a part of the raw materials in the product boxes. Previously, this was cycle-counted on a regular basis – now it's accurately back-flushed and cycle counted which is considerably more accurate than it has been in the past."

“ The project as a whole has been a very successful one – in fact, from the point of view of actual project implementation, I would say spectacularly successful! ”

Simon Smith, Head of IT at Amtico

Martin has seen improvements at all levels of Amtico's business. "We noticed that the new Eagle program exposed some data integrity issues and the program now allows the logistics team to fix those with the IT team, to improve stock accuracy across the board. The traceability of the core components is also better, certainly in relation to the marine product where we have an obligation to demonstrate clear traceability for a minimum of 10 years."

THE RESULTS

The project has helped enable faster speed of scanning, much greater accuracy of the materials being used, and greater traceability at the Amtico Coventry site.



Amtico developed a pyramid-training structure to ensure that the implementation went as smoothly as possible for the workforce. Whilst many of the existing Eagle programmes were legacy programmes that didn't require additional training, the Eagle team were an integral part of the implementation in terms of discussion and training workshops, offering opportunities and solutions during the whole process.

Martin Stott is equally enthusiastic. "We were very happy with the launch and the time spent in achieving it. Eagle helped us with the proof-testing to make sure the package was doing its job and the success of the training could be seen in the smooth launch of Go-Live, with no disruption to either production or supply through the subsequent weeks till start-up. There were obviously some operational issues raised during Go-Live, as there always will be, but most of these were dealt with easily and we'll continue to engage with the shop floor and the users of the system to identify and assess any future issues that may crop up."



THE FUTURE

The migration of Eagle's existing programmes and the upgrade to QAD 2015EE, along with the many and varied improvements that have come about as a result of the implementation at Amtico's Coventry premises, bodes well for the future. Amtico is looking into the possibilities of introducing further functionality and Eagle will be a part of that process.

"The Eagle side of the implementation fully met our expectations and they were on time and within budget!"

Martin Stott, Amtico's
Project Manager

ABOUT EAGLE

Eagle provides electronic data capture solutions for companies using QAD Enterprise Applications. Eagle are QAD's Alliance Product Partner for data collection with the class leading product RF Express® for QAD Enterprise Applications.

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