

Procter & Gamble Rolls Out a Scalable, Globally Standard Planning and Scheduling Solution

Consumer goods giant deploys Aspen Plant Scheduler (or “Smart Planner”) to provide critical planning and scheduling capabilities for the short-term planning process.

Organized into three main global business units—Beauty & Health Care, Household Care, and Gillette—Procter & Gamble had sales greater than \$80 billion in 2008/2009, with 23 brands with sales greater than \$1 billion. P&G has more than 138,000 employees and operations in 80 countries.

With hundreds of plants, contract operations, and distribution centers, P&G needed a standard planning and scheduling solution that could be implemented worldwide. After years of attempting to make the SAP APO PPDS module work, the company selected Aspen Plant Scheduler as the standard scheduling application across P&G.

AspenTech provided P&G with something that SAP could not: a scalable solution that could be used in all plants, from the simplest to most complex, and that would satisfy the business requirements of granular, within-the-day scheduling. P&G is currently implementing Aspen Plant Scheduler—renamed by P&G as “Smart Planner”—with a goal of scaling up to 50 sites in the next few years.

“Aspen Plant Scheduler does not replace SAP R/3 production planning; it enhances the short-term planning process. P&G runs SAP MRP once per day. With Aspen Plant Scheduler, we can create a new plan several times a day.”

—Kristopher Tenbarge, Procter & Gamble

Customer Profile

Procter & Gamble
Consumer Goods Manufacturer

Challenge:

Existing SAP solution provided only limited visibility and granularity in the short-term planning process.

Solution:

Implement Aspen Plant Scheduler—deployed by P&G as “Smart Planner”—to complement SAP and enable within-the-day planning

Best Practice:

Implement a standard, scalable solution at plants worldwide

Benefits:

- Enable a quick roll-out at subsequent plants
- Ensure a standardized solution that is scalable to accommodate different levels of plant complexity
- Ensure fast integration and data exchange with SAP



Lack of Visibility within Each Day

P&G uses SAP as both their system of reference and for long-term planning. However, SAP has several shortcomings when it comes to supporting P&G's short-term planning process. While SAP has some manual finite planning capabilities, it was not sufficient for many of P&G's plants and did not provide the ability to create a new plan several times a day. With SAP, P&G had no visibility within each daily time bucket or insight into instant inventory updates, multiple resources and products on the same screen, hourly end item and intermediate inventories, or coordination of make/pack.

A Solution to Fit Simple or Complex Plants

P&G has created a standardized version of Aspen Plant Scheduler, which they call "Smart Planner." Smart Planner can be reapplied at new plants by changing configuration options and configuring the SAP interface. Smart Planner's starting point is the current SAP production plan and its supporting master data.

P&G has two levels of complexity for Smart Planner: Lite and Full. In the "Lite" solution, SAP R/3 recommends materials and quantities for each planning time bucket, then Smart Planner is used for automated sequencing, manual schedule changes, and schedule analysis/reporting. It also provides visibility and alignment between P&G's "make" and "pack" operations. The "Full" solution has all of these capabilities, but instead of relying on SAP to make recommendations, Smart Planner uses linear programming to determine materials and quantities for each planning bucket. This is crucial at P&G's more complex sites where planning is done multiple times each day.

Smart Planner: A Scalable, Standardized Solution

With Smart Planner, P&G has a scalable, globally standard solution and integration that it can roll out to plants worldwide. They currently have a single integration hub supporting more than 20 sites in three regions, with more to come. Using their proven implementation approach and standardized solution, Smart Planner only takes a couple of hours to set up a new plant. This will make it much easier for P&G to scale up to over 50 sites globally in the next few years.

P&G's end-to-end integration performance averages less than 20 minutes on downloads and less than seven minutes on uploads. This fast interface time for massive amounts of data enables P&G to plan and schedule their plants according to the speed of their business, instead of having the timeline dictated by the limitations of their SAP system.

About AspenTech

AspenTech is a leading supplier of software that optimizes process manufacturing — including oil and gas, petroleum, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and other industries that manufacture and produce products from a chemical process. With integrated aspenONE solutions, process manufacturers can implement best practices for optimizing their engineering, manufacturing and supply chain operations. As a result, AspenTech customers are better able to increase capacity, improve margins, reduce costs and become more energy efficient. To see how the world's leading process manufacturers rely on AspenTech to achieve their operational excellence goals, visit www.aspentech.com.



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