

PROCESS INDUSTRIES FOR MICROSOFT DYNAMICS™ AX

Solutions for the Primary Metals Industry

Market restructuring, realignment, and oversupply are commonplace challenges for metal producers, as well as strict requirements for formulation and process control. Process Industries for Microsoft Dynamics™ AX provide metals producers with the tools to optimize cyclical production demands, improve supply chain efficiencies, and create a competitive advantage by focusing on customer service instead of price alone.

Benefits:

- Streamlined production operations
- Improved ability to meet production requirements
- Reduced inventories and improved customer service
- Support for make-to-stock, made-to-order and mixed mode environments
- Positive return on investment (ROI)

Reduce Inventories and Improve Customer Service

Reduce inventories without compromising delivery performance by accurately depicting real-time inventory levels and then adjusting forecasts and inventory restocking points. You can also prioritize accounts, support different customer service levels, and generate production plans that minimize the impact of setup and changeovers.

Support for Make-to-Stock, Made-to-Order and Mixed-Mode Environments

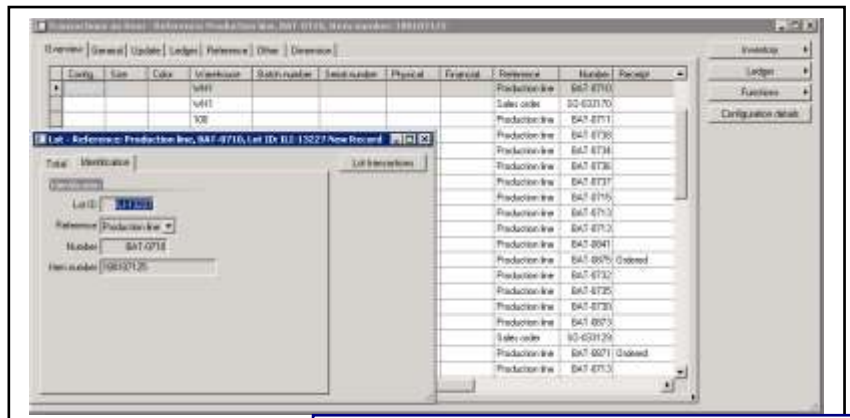
Process Industries for Microsoft Dynamics AX includes support for market segments such as integrated mills, mini-mills, blast furnace and basic steel products, iron and steel foundries, miscellaneous metal products, nonferrous rolling and drawing, and primary and secondary nonferrous materials.

Streamline Production Operations

Maximize yields and reduce costs while meeting quality standards. Gain visibility and better understand the relationships among orders, production, inventory, and distribution. Microsoft Dynamics AX will help you increase margins from improved utilization, improved customer service, and fewer lost sales; reduce costs by lowering operating and raw material expenses; and cut inventories by reducing raw materials, intermediates, and finished products.

Meet Formulation, Process Control, and Quality Requirements

Consistently maintain formulations and meet regulatory requirements by documenting, tracking, and logging all standard processes. With features such as traceability, lot requirements, production statistics reporting, specification management, and change management, primary metals producers can gain exact control over all materials, co-products, by-products, and end-products; track histories and audit trails; and provide diligent heat tracing, yield optimization, and specification management.



Batch tracking presents a challenge for many metals producers. Process Industries for Microsoft Dynamics AX enables users to capture the attributes and test results for every batch, and provides a comprehensive batch location tracking function.

Features Overview

Input-Driven Process Specification	Manage unlimited inputs and outputs within process specifications by defining production resources including ingredients, machines, labor, utilities, and quality assurance variables.
Catch Weight and Recipe-Based Units of Measure (UOM)	Track and manage inventory simultaneously using two non-converted UOM, such as weight and area. Use product volumes and weights based upon actual measurements rather than through UOM conversion routines to minimize material variances. Capture and use as-produced weight (catch weight) to ensure accurate inventory management and costing.
Attribute Tracking and Dynamic Formula Adjustment	Define and maintain an unlimited number of qualitative and quantitative attributes at the product and lot levels. Adjust formulas automatically based on the actual characteristics of input materials to ensure consistent quality of final products.
Co-Product/By-Product Management	Support co-product and by-product tracking to help optimize decisions. Analyze co- and by-product attributes and costs, compare the costs and benefits of selling or disposing of them, and credit their values to the appropriate finished goods.
Batch Optimization and Balancing	Produce against given batch sizes for full consumption of every batch. Maintain products most likely to be needed in stock. Facilitate the coherence and traceability of multilevel production.
Yield Planning and Tracking	Establish yield standards using formulas, and track and report actual yields against standards to quickly identify out-of-tolerance conditions, isolate the cause, and take corrective actions.
Fast Requests for Quotations (RFQs)	Shorten development time for RFQs and reduce risk by streamlining quoting and estimating.
Flexible Planning and Scheduling Tools	Quickly adjust product mix to respond to changes in demand using “what-if” simulations. Schedule multiple package types within a single production run and consider recurring or rework products. Deploy finite or infinite capacity and materials scheduling, backward or forward scheduling, detailed scheduling by hours and minutes, or scheduling by day.
Customizable Item and Dimensionality Structure	Define multiple inventory dimensions to gain insight into the dynamics of stocking practices, including packaging codes, main item variations, lot management, and inventory status. Conduct “where-used” analysis, including alternate formula and recipe tracking.
Variable Inventory and Order Tracking	Monitor inventory using dual UOM to manage total weight as well as packaging units (catch weight calculations). Track order status using real-time updates on net purchasing, production and capacity requirements, and graphical symbols for each level of the formula or recipe.
Integrated Quality Control (QC) Capabilities	Know the correct inventory status for any given item, including designations for QC testing, QC and failed, and downgrade of product. Manage quarantined products throughout the QC process and track their release from quarantine.
Detailed Production Costs Analysis	Analyze and monitor production costs and requirements for each component of a sales order using graphical representations of multilevel formulas and recipes.
Optimized Picking	Pull inventory in optimal sequence, employing “best before” management. Employ either first expired/first out (FEFO) or first in/first out (FIFO) calculations for inventory picking.
Manufacturing Process Validation	Accelerate and simplify compliance with requirements from regulatory agencies such as the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).
Web-Based, Workflow-Enabled Communication	Share information with employees via the Internet to maintain high production levels and on-time deliveries. Enable customers to order their preferred UOM and provide product availability, delivery, pricing, and more to customers and suppliers through an enterprise portal.

Achieve a Positive ROI

Because Process Industries for Microsoft Dynamics AX is built on proven Microsoft products and technologies, your business can take advantage of existing IT investments such as Microsoft® Office System applications and the Microsoft Windows Server System™. Your company can also realize quick payback on your investment. According to a research study by Nucleus Research, Inc. conducted in 2004, 75 percent of participating Microsoft Dynamics AX (formerly Microsoft Business Solutions–Axapta®) customers achieved a positive ROI within an average of only 23 months.*

*Nucleus Research, Inc. *The Real ROI from Axapta*. Research Note E116, October 2004.

For more information about Process Industries for Microsoft Dynamics AX, visit <http://www.microsoft.com/dynamics/ax>.

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