



VITAL PLANT: SAVES THOUSANDS OF PARTS

MANUFACTURING EXECUTION SYSTEM CASE STUDY

Executive Summary

The testing policy of a Tier 1 supplier of steering wheel assemblies was to e-test (electronic test) every horn as it was installed in the factory. The criteria gathered by this test were values and connections that control the horn and the cruise control. About 25,000 steering wheels are produced per week at the plant.

VIA Information Tools, Inc. is a manufacturing execution domain expert focused on business improvement through traceability, process enforcement, real time visibility, and analysis utilizing manufacturing software applications and professional services.



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THE CHALLENGE

The Tier 1 supplier needed to provide the customer with a report compiling all e-test results for horns and cruise controls installed during the steering wheel assembly for a consecutive three-month period. Test results of more than 300,000 steering wheels were required. Manually preparing this report would consume more than 15 days for one full-time person, either internally (removed from a current position) or hired externally.

THE SOLUTION

Using VIA's VITAL PLANT manufacturing execution suite, the Tier 1 supplier was already collecting, sorting and filing this data. VITAL PLANT was configured to capture process variables and test results such as 'pass/fail' signals as well as process detail at each operation. The data that the customer needed was already being captured and stored electronically.

THE RESULTS

VITAL PLANT produced a report containing each of the necessary data points within only 15 minutes of the vehicle makers' request. This detailed report allowed the auto maker to replace only 12 steering wheels. According to the vehicle maker, they expected the report to take several more weeks to produce, and they expected to have to replace thousands more steering wheels in the meantime. The quick response driven by VIA's VITAL PLANT MES allowed the vehicle maker to quickly assess the situation with the steering wheels in a positive and cost-efficient manner that gained status for the supplier and saved the OEM money.

