

# 3 ways ERP helps manufacturers do more with less

By [Anton Oosthuizen](#), issued by [QuickEasy Software](#)

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[Enterprise Resource Planning \(ERP\)](#) software has a long and rich history in the manufacturing sector. A far cry from the niched, rigid manufacturing software of the 80's, today's cloud-based, highly flexible integrated solution is able to meet the evolving requirements of most manufacturing operations at speed.



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Subsequently, ERP has become the backbone of most manufacturing concerns, giving manufacturers instant, real-time visibility into their entire business - from shop floor to top floor. It boosts productivity and efficiency, easily adapts to new manufacturing methods and evolving business strategies, and automates and stores business transactions and data in one central place.

ERP solutions, or [business operating systems \(BOS\)](#) allow manufacturers to streamline complex business operations and remain agile enough to quickly respond to changes in customer demands and dynamic markets. BOS give manufacturers the ability to:

- Lower costs and streamline processes while increasing revenue and profits.
- Eliminate unnecessary downtime and increase supply-chain visibility.
- Optimise lean manufacturing efforts through smarter decision-making, reduced waste and increased customer satisfaction.

## Doing more, with less (lean manufacturing)

Lean manufacturing, also known as the '[Just-In-Time](#)' (JIT) [manufacturing approach](#), is associated with an intrinsically thin, highly flexible supply chain strategy. JIT integrates seamlessly with modern BOS as they both represent the same business goals:

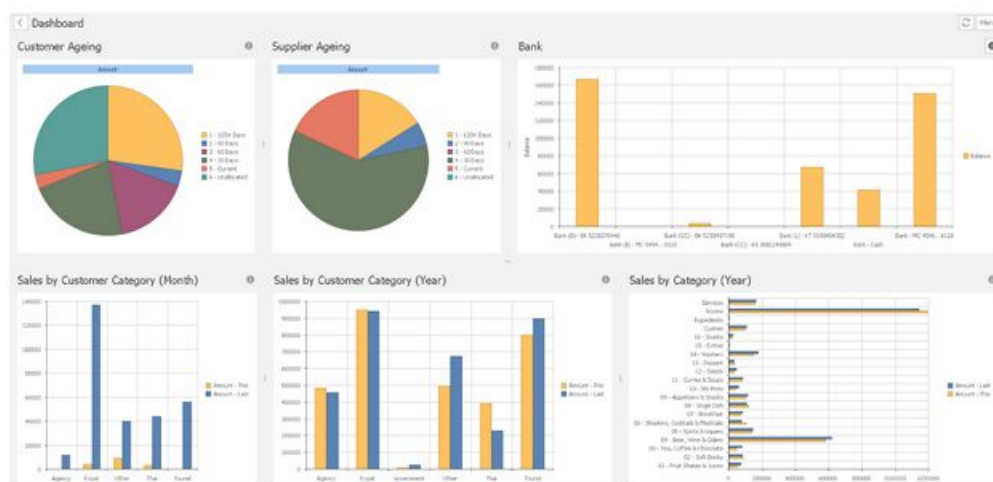
- Eliminate waste
- Remove bloated inventory levels
- Improve speed of production
- Act on market-demand
- Produce satisfied customers
- Maintain quality control
- Trust the workforce
- Quickly embrace change
- Trust suppliers
- Strive for continuous improvement

## ERP and lean manufacturing today

Part of lean manufacturing's approach is a commitment to continuous improvement. This is an organisation-wide challenge that requires changes in mindsets and workflow. Methodologies such as JIT and [total productive maintenance](#) (TPM) - a proactive approach to asset maintenance with the goal to increase equipment availability and avoid breakdowns - test how truly committed a business is to achieving manufacturing perfection.

Another key factor in lean manufacturing is in eliminating waste. BOS and JIT share these goals, and serve to provide a direct value point that either drives revenue growth or reduces cost throughout the manufacturing chain. This can be found on the production floor, in the office, as well as in the supply chain. Too few manufacturers use BOS to identify and

optimise their operations and support their lean manufacturing objectives.



This quick, easy access to business intelligence ensures accurate, agile, rapid decision-making that keeps the business on track in an ever-changing marketplace.

## **In conclusion**

Manufacturing ERP has come a long way from its limited, inflexible origins. [Cloud-based BOS](#) provides real-time, always-on, from anywhere access to the entire business's operations, enabling manufacturers to be more agile and responsive, and making it easier to incorporate best practice and better compliance. With nearly [70% of manufacturers](#) crediting the Internet of Things (such as cloud-based technology) with increased profitability, cloud-based BOS is the way forward for future-minded manufacturers.

Choose a [technology partner](#) who has experience deploying BOS for companies in your industry with in-depth knowledge of business processes, best-practice, as well as software customisation. If your manufacturing business manufactures to order or to stock, uses discrete or process methods, engineers to order or builds large project-based assets, [BOS's](#) astonishingly flexible solution - on-premise or in the cloud - ensures your complex operation is streamlined for optimal planning, processing, tracking and visibility into your business, allowing you to do more, with less.

## **About Anton Oosthuizen**

Anton is the Commercial Director of QuickEasy BOS, a South African ERP company that develops and supports business operating systems for organisations in every industry. His passion is to see local manufacturing concerns streamline operations, reduce waste, and improve efficiencies through providing astonishingly flexible BOS solutions, with local, professional support.

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