

Improving Factory Planning at BIC

Result

• **40%**

reduction in
changeovers

• **20**

hours of additional
capacity per week

Improved scheduling

BIC is a world leader in stationary, lighters, and shaver products, with consumers purchasing 32 million BIC products every day. When BIC wanted to increase the planning horizon and accuracy of their manual sequencing process at their Charlotte packaging facility, they implemented Blue Yonder's factory planning capability.

"What used to be a manual three-day rolling schedule is now an automated two-week rolling schedule. We take into consideration such things as order need date, reductions in changeovers, tooling and labor availability to generate that schedule." — **Global Planning System Manager, BIC**

Challenges

- BIC's manual sequencing process could only look out three days, limiting their ability to take advantage of improved production planning
- The three-day rolling schedule resulted in frequent, expensive and time-consuming changeovers
- The Charlotte facility was nearing capacity and would require capital investment in a new facility if production throughput could not be increased

Increased customer satisfaction

The Blue Yonder factory planning capability enables BIC to share and collaborate on a single production plan. “This allows everyone from our floor supervisors to our supply planners to see when the production orders will be available to ship to our customers, so increased customer satisfaction has been a big win for BIC.”

Improved processes

“The solution has provided us with an improved and repeatable process. Production changeovers have been reduced by 40% by eliminating one-to-two changeovers per week. We were also able to identify 20 hours of additional packaging capacity per week which negated the need for capital investment in a new packaging facility. So, increased efficiency and no capital expenditure was a huge win for BIC, as well.”

Solution benefits

- Increased the production planning horizon from three days to two weeks
- Reduced production changeovers by 40% and eliminated one-to-two changeovers per week
- Increased packaging capacity by 20 hours per week, negating the need to invest in a new plant
- Provided measurable feedback to improve production rates and identify tooling needs
- Increased customer satisfaction

Blue Yonder's expertise

“By using the factory planning solution, it will provide us measurable feedback on improving our production rates and also identify needs for new tooling. BIC is currently studying other BIC facilities where a factory planning and sequencing capability could be beneficial. With those implementations, we hope to scale the same results we had in our Charlotte packaging facility around the BIC world.”

— Global Planning System Manager, BIC