

CASE STUDY

☰ SUMITOMO ELECTRIC LIGHTWAVE BOOSTS OUTPUT BY 16% WITH ADVANCED PLANNING & SCHEDULING



**SUMITOMO ELECTRIC
LIGHTWAVE**



Production Scheduling Software

PLANNING / SCHEDULING / OPTIMIZATION / ANALYTICS

CLIENT

Sumitomo Electric Lightwave

INDUSTRY

Communication Networks

CUSTOMER PROFILE

 Connecting Today to Tomorrow. Sumitomo Electric is the recognized leader in the development of the highest quality fusion splicing equipment and accessories. Our global resources in research and development allow us to continue to listen to our customers' needs and respond to them quickly.

Billions of bundles of optical fiber lace the earth in a light-filled network of telecommunication signals. Energy moves. People connect. And life bustles on ever-widening bandwidth from Pittsburg to Perth.

www.sumitomoelectric.com

PLANETTOGETHER PROFILE

PlanetTogether was founded in 2004 as the culmination of decades of academic research at Cornell University. Combined with over 20 years of industry experience, we focus on making manufacturers more successful by applying software that solves production planning and scheduling problems. With our powerful, easy to use, integrated software tools and education, manufacturers can attract and retain customers by delivering faster—and do it more profitably by minimizing resource and inventory costs. PlanetTogether is on a mission to make the planet more productive, one manufacturer at a time.

PLANETTOGETHER INC.

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Sumitomo Electric Lightwave (SEL) manufactures these amazing pure glass-silica fibers (similar in size to a human hair) for an elite product line of 6,000 different optical cable parts, assemblies and systems. Communication networks, enterprise networks and equipment manufacturers would go dark without these strings of modern technology. Based in Research Triangle, NC, the 300-employee company rose to the summit of its industry due, in part, to its long reputation for the highest standards in research and development, design engineering and manufacture since 1897.

Even still, Sumitomo Electric Lightwave, member of the mega family of companies in Sumitomo Electric Industries, decided the time had come to eliminate the potential for any and all bottlenecks in its production scheduling.

To help understand and improve the factors that drive plant efficiency, Sumitomo turned to PlanetTogether Inc., a San Diego based Advanced Planning and Scheduling (APS) Software Company.

"The challenge Sumitomo faced was a manufacturing imperative: To deliver on accurate promise dates for customized fiber optic infrastructures, and maximize supply chain resources to meet growing product demand," says Gary Bishop, director of manufacturing operations for SEL.

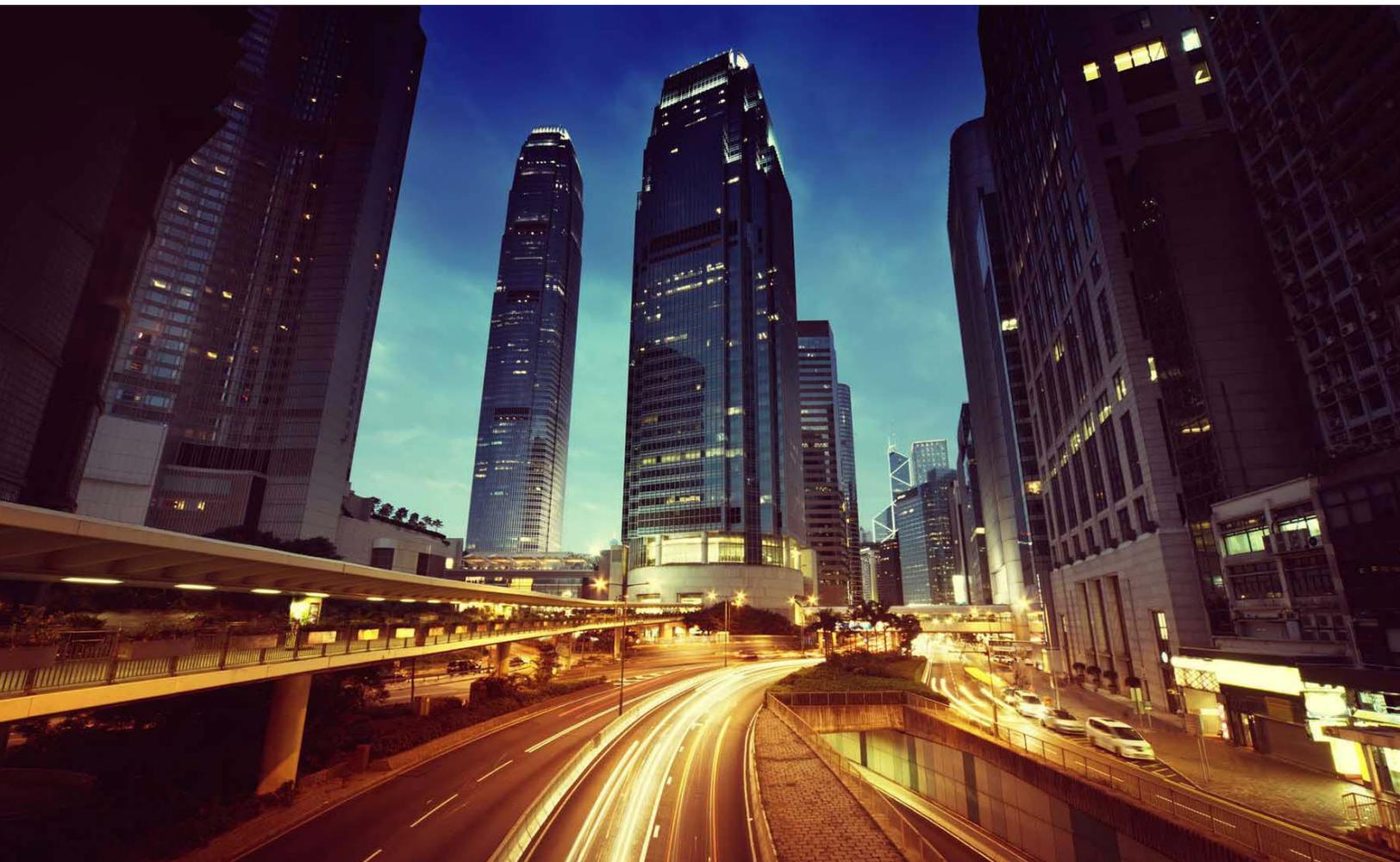


Bishop's team underwent an intensive software evaluation, and concluded that only PlanetTogether met expectations on functionality and cost of ownership. *"We needed a high-power scheduling system geared for mass customization. Some companies may find what they need in a basic package. For those of us with massive throughput, the one size fits all approach doesn't work,"* Bishops claims.

To ensure a worry-free integration, PlanetTogether worked closely with Accupointe, a leading specialist in systems integrations to ERP, CRM, and HRMS and BI solutions. Accupointe's Dene Powell: *"We partner with PlanetTogether on many projects, from mid market to tier one, and are impressed with its innovation in the APS (Advanced Planning & Scheduling) arena."*

PlanetTogether integrated its APS platform to Sumitomo's Manufacturing Execution System (MES). In short order, the Sumitomo planning and scheduling team saw the flows of orders throughout the supply chain, which allowed them to address constraints, solve bottlenecks, handle what-if scenarios, and manage resources at a standard of efficiency not known before. Attention to detail guides the PlanetTogether team and compels it to invest considerable time in learning the operational profile of each client department.

Bishop affirmed, *"We found the PlanetTogether personnel very professional in all respects. We felt they took an efficient approach to all aspects of the project, from the quote to implementation process, allowing us to keep expenses down and gain maximum value for our investment."*



AGILITY RULES

The open-face view of PlanetTogether's APS Gantt chart gives SEL a quick snapshot of time required for changeover and specific order runs on manufacturing lines. The drag and drop feature provides the means to manage resources in real time. And multiple schedulers now use the system simultaneously for measurable time and labor saving benefits.

"Another PlanetTogether benefit is the ability to integrate preventative maintenance schedules with manufacturing schedules. Commitments cannot be met without maximizing Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE); the freedom to block out time for preventative maintenance before the schedule is filled with orders increases our uptime and capacity," Bishop notes.

Already, the integration of PlanetTogether with SEL's MES produced two-way real time communication between plant operations, scheduling and customer service. Accuracy of shipment promise dates **improved by 8 percent, and production output levels increased 16 percent.**

ABOUT PLANET TOGETHER

PlanetTogether is known for stellar performance in production scheduling for multi-plant manufacturers. Founded in 2004 by Cornell University engineers, this San Diego-based software developer thrives on the challenge of algorithms and easy-to-use tools to drive manufacturing efficiency. Planet's showcase product is its **APS PRODUCTION SCHEDULING PLATFORM**, whose muscular functionality cuts inventory and labor costs in half, boosts productivity by double digits, and connects multi-plant operations with precision. Fully customizable, PlanetTogether APS integrates to virtually any ERP system, typically in four months, and pays for itself in six.



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