

## Appointment

Mr. Raymond Auger, President, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Alain Fournier, Eng., MBA, as Vice-President of Business Development. With more than 25 years of industrial engineering experience in the manufacturing industry and supply chain field, he will be an important asset to our firm. He held operations management positions for large businesses before working as a general manager and plant manager in the chemical and manufacturing-assembly industries. We welcome him to Auger Groupe Conseil.



**We are currently looking for an experienced trainer and an industrial engineer or technician with five years of experience.**

For more information, please call Mrs. Suzanne Angel at 819-370-2875 or Mr. Gilbert LeBlanc at 506-533-0004.



AUGER GROUPE CONSEIL INC.  
Génie industriel / Industrial engineering

## ERP Software Implemented in Record Time at Matériaux Spécialisés Louiseville (MSL)

MSL is a company of eighty employees that specializes in the manufacturing of fibreboard panels. Shortly after being acquired by the Cascades group, the company faced a looming deadline in terms of its operations management, as the former owner planned to remove all IT support for the existing management system at the end of the fiscal year. MSL therefore had only 4½ months to implement new management software. This was a very short deadline, considering that it usually takes about a year to carry out this kind of project.

Since we were able to fulfill the specifications at a very competitive price with our *Orchestra Solution for SME*, Auger Groupe Conseil was awarded the contract. The challenge of the project arose from the following constraints:

- The implementation timeframe was very short: 4½ months for the manufacturing module and 3½ months for the accounting module.
- The company was in a very high production period.
- A lot of custom work was necessary due to the continuous nature of the operations.
- Implementation had to be carried out in 2 separate companies.

Implementing the software under these conditions could only happen with close collaboration between the Auger team and the different sector owners of the company, each of whom made formal commitments to the project and demonstrated a high level of participation, particularly when it came to optimizing certain functionalities to fit the company's needs.

In order to properly model the software, the implementation was divided into three stages:

1. Training for the management team on the principles of manufacturing management. Here, each sector owner learned the inner workings of the manufacturing management system and discovered how the information managed in their sector was useful, if not essential, to other sectors.

2. Practical training for users on the manufacturing management module with a test case that allowed them to master the software's functionalities and understand the interaction between its different parts. During this step, the owners began to see how the application would work in their sector, and they started identifying their own particular needs.
3. Individual coaching for all owners to ensure that they completely understood how to exploit the full potential of the software while adapting it to the particular needs of their sector.

The process of adapting the software allowed us to quickly determine that the scheduling system, although very powerful for standard production, did not optimize planning in the context of continuous process manufacturing.

A customized planning system was therefore specifically developed for the needs of the company. The application now allows the production for an entire month to be planned in just a few minutes.

The new software took over from the old system at the agreed-upon deadline much to the satisfaction of all users, who now have at their disposal a manufacturing management system that provides quick access to data in real-time according to their needs. Indeed, the new system allows them to manage their sectors in the most efficient way possible.

Implementing this software was also an opportunity to improve administrative efficiency, for example, through the elimination of many manual tasks. This led to more interesting tasks for various users along with increased motivation due to the project's success and the software's ease of use.