

Autodie, LLC

Radley EDI Integration with SyteLine ERP Provides Better Automation for a Growing Automotive Manufacturing Company

Industry

Automotive manufacturing

Challenge

Scaling up manufacturing of more part lines strained their existing system and wasted countless hours on manual processes for skilled workers

Solution

Radley ICARAS EDI and Radley IREDI EDI integrated with Infor SyteLine ERP

Results

Saved countless labor hours, improved data visibility, and boosted team morale

Since 1962, Autodie has built large automobile stamping dies—essentially metal templates that shape various parts needed to assemble a car. Autodie has grown into one of the largest auto die manufacturers in the country—employing more than 300 skilled machinists at their headquarters in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and a secondary facility in Salem, Ohio.

Autodie serves clients in a range of fields including aerospace, defense, commercial transportation, agriculture, alternative energy, and machine tools. They're also a Stellantis, solidifying their stellar reputation and industry credibility.

Despite this growth and industry experience, Autodie still struggled with one massively important component of their production and operations—software.

Challenge

Autodie's parent company recently began shifting several product lines for production at Autodie's main Grand Rapids facility. What started as manufacturing one additional auto part quickly bloomed into the development of 18 separate components.

Despite their expertise with these parts, the Autodie team struggled with the additional administrative work. They were stuck doing manual updates during production, including printing individual packing slips and bills of lading from Excel.

Although Autodie handles large manufacturing work with their large skilled labor team, the administrative staff is comparatively small. This left much of the work to their machine experts, whose time was being drained by frustrating manual labeling and data entry.

Not only that, but these manual processes created data lag within the systems that slowed down communications and often led to order errors. The complex process was also a drain on team morale because skilled workers were doing increasingly more work outside of their expertise.



Solution

The Autodie team knew they needed an EDI solution to streamline this process and eliminate these mounting concerns and production bottlenecks.

SyteLine ERP Integration

Autodie's finance specialist, Dave Miller, had experienced many EDI implementations in the past, primarily in the automotive industry. In each one of them, the company used Radley, so Miller was familiar with the software and its benefits. Luckily for Autodie, CAI Solution's Radley ICARAS EDI has extensive experience with integrating with SyteLine, the company's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

"Radley has good integration with our ERP," said Miller. "They've been connected with SyteLine for a very long time. Radley is really the go-to when you ask around in the industry. We figured if we're going to do EDI, Radley was the go-to, and it has worked out for us."

Training and Onboarding

Onboarding the company with a new tool meant aligning every department with the new Radley EDI. This wasn't a simple matter, but they were assisted by their CAI Software consultant to lead the integration every step of

the way.

"Our IT department had no experience with EDI, so we needed to work with a company that could provide all the guidance," said Miller. "An EDI project should not be purely an IT project—it's much more than that. It needs to work with the production team and the logistics team. We had to do a lot of change management to get everyone on board."

Future Growth

Not only has Radley ICARAS EDI quickly modernized Autodie's production process, it's also set them up for success in the future. They've already purchased the complementing IREDI EDI package for the purchasing side which will work in tandem with ICARAS EDI and SyteLine.

Having the full Radley EDI solution implemented will help them manage sales and communications with their vendors. Their team's vision is that this will also allow them to expand in the future to add more labor shifts, customers, and product lines.

Results

- Saved an estimated **12 hours per week** or about **624 hours per year**
- Improved accuracy of data
- Better visibility for their purchasing teams
- Streamlined generation of ASN and shipping documents
- Projected shipping schedules automatically shared with relevant team members
- Boost in team morale and communication
- Systems now in place for smooth transitions as production scales up

Dave summed up their experience nicely: “We had people on the floor having to spend hours on a computer in Excel, which is not their idea of fun. It’s much better to have this all automated, and it’s helped our team morale.”



“We knew we had to get things updated consistently, promptly, and accurately to better drive production planning. That’s why we looked for an EDI solution and chose Radley.”

Dave Miller
Finance Specialist, Autodie