

Soft Batteries

Improves Process Execution Controls with ShopVue

Industry

Lithium-ion Cell Batteries

Challenge

Lacking accurate, timely data to enable root cause analysis in support of continuous improvement efforts

Solution

A proven way to automate the collection of valuable and trustworthy production data

Results

Reduction of paper data collection and data silos, accelerating problem-solving and process improvements

Soft is a leading battery manufacturer with intellectual capital drawn from 49 countries. Soft's innovative, safe, and reliable technology delivers high performance batteries on land, at sea, in the air, and in space. Soft is the preferred battery supplier for some of the world's most demanding sectors, where its long-life batteries, systems, and solutions make a significant impact across the globe.

Jill Parisher, Manager of Continuous Improvement and Analytics, is a Quality Champion with deep IT and Operations experience in the manufacturing industry.

Learn how her team extended ShopVue to improve recipe and process execution controls while streamlining their IT infrastructure, reducing data silos, and leveraging existing API's to get the most out of 6 Sigma and 8D/A3 methodologies.

“First we must understand the root cause which enables us to take action and eliminate it. The root cause must always be validated with data.

Expanding the use of ShopVue MES has provided us with good quality data to support this discipline.”

Jill Parisher, Manager of Continuous Improvement and Analytics, Soft Batteries

Challenge

How to use data to deliver high ROI

As the Manager of Continuous Improvement and Analytics, Jill and her team support the factory with digitization and operational excellence efforts. To accomplish this, they rely on data quality, data management, and making the data work hard for them. Each Continuous Improvement project they work on must deliver a solid ROI and essentially pay their salaries.

ShopVue MES was already collecting a huge amount of valuable production data. Jill's team was determined to extend ShopVue to further support root cause analysis and continuous improvement efforts.

Solution

The solution required extending the existing ShopVue footprint from the assembly area to the cell production area and automating the process of Issuing Components, Inline Inspections, as well as providing SPC and Run Charts.

ShopVue provided the results Saft and its customers required. Real-time recipe and process execution is easily managed with APIs to external hardware and tools. Operators and Supervisors have visibility into data they can trust for root cause analysis.

“We work on the philosophy of our workforce executing their tasks at 80% accuracy. This number is backed up by data.

Every time we fill a cell wrong, there is a chance it can be reworked but more than likely it becomes scrap.

The implementation of process execution and recipe control provides the inline quality data we need to allow us to chip away at eliminating the 20% of activities that are most likely to be executed incorrectly.”

Jill Parisher

“Before ShopVue, data review only occurred when a problem had been detected at the end of the line. Now we can focus on making the data work hard for us in real time.”

Jill Parisher

Results

In the past, Saft had over 40 dispersed IT systems tracking critical production data along with an unprecedented amount of paper records. None of these systems were maintained in a sustainable manner. Therefore, Saft struggled with accessing root cause analysis data to support continuous improvement efforts.

“To be effective, we must have good quality and easy-to-access data - so removing paper data collection from our operations was foundational to solving problems and improving processes.”

Now, by expanding their use of ShopVue MES, they have good quality data to support them in their efforts to understand the root cause to enable them to take permanent action and eliminate it.