intouch
production
monitoring system

Contents

# Industry 4.0 and profitable manufacturing

In manufacturing, profit is reliant on how efficiently the shop-floor is performing. Squeezing everything from your resources without compromising on quality is a challenge increasingly faced by manufacturers.

So how can manufacturers stay competitive whilst maintaining or increasing profit?

Continuous improvement is key. Looking at existing processes and finding ways of making these more efficient and cost effective ultimately leads to a more profitable business.

Without a mechanism that collects accurate data and standardises current systems, continuous improvement is often reactionary, where problems are only dealt with after they have become costly and problematic.

The Intouch real-time scheduling, monitoring and reporting system gives manufacturers the visibility and control to easily make continuous improvement decisions; allowing you to improve OEE and increase productivity, reduce errors and improve quality whilst reducing lead times, energy and labour.
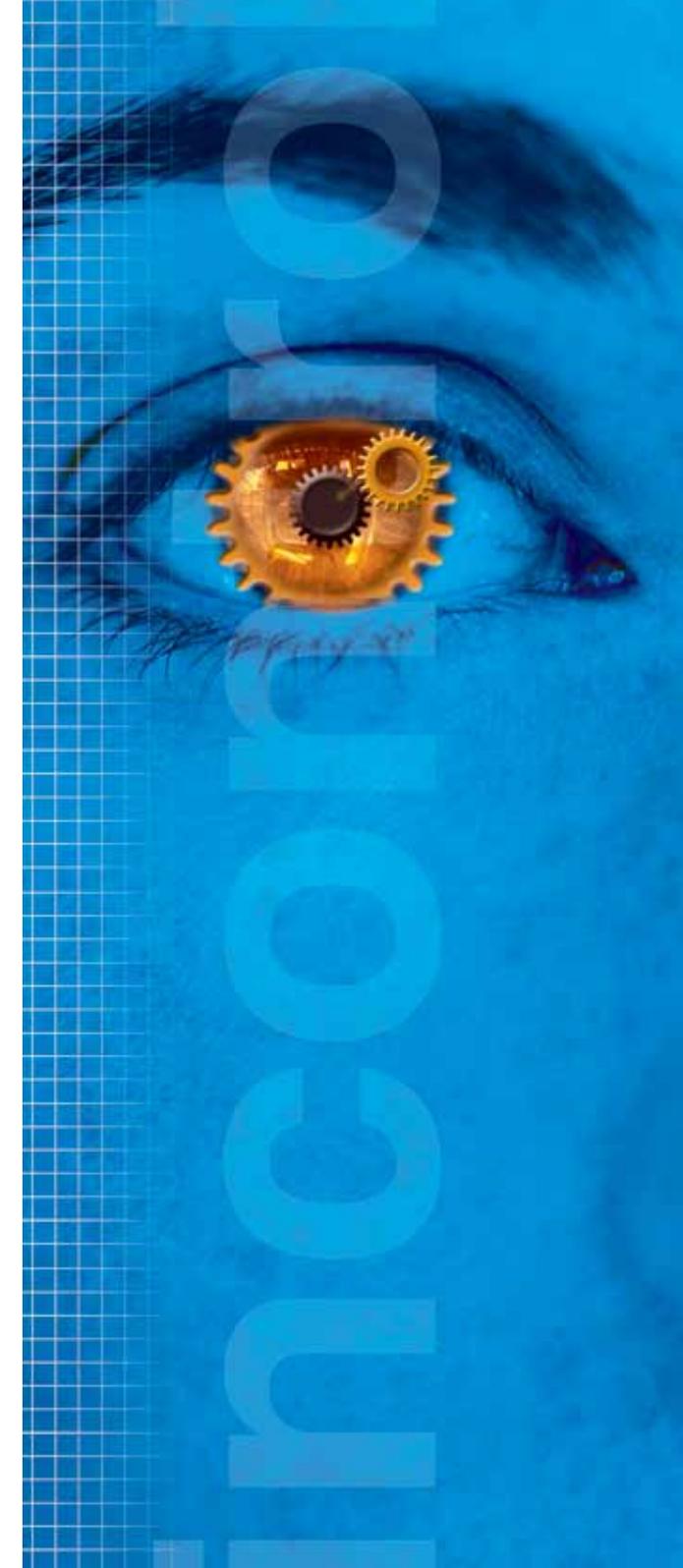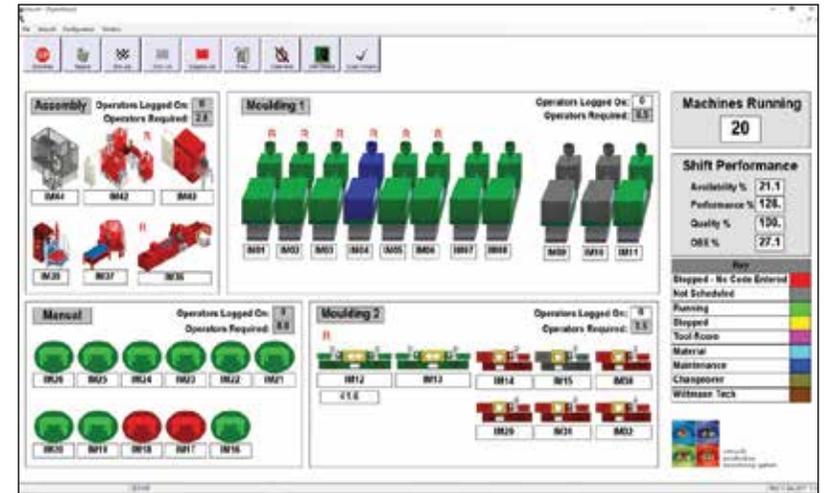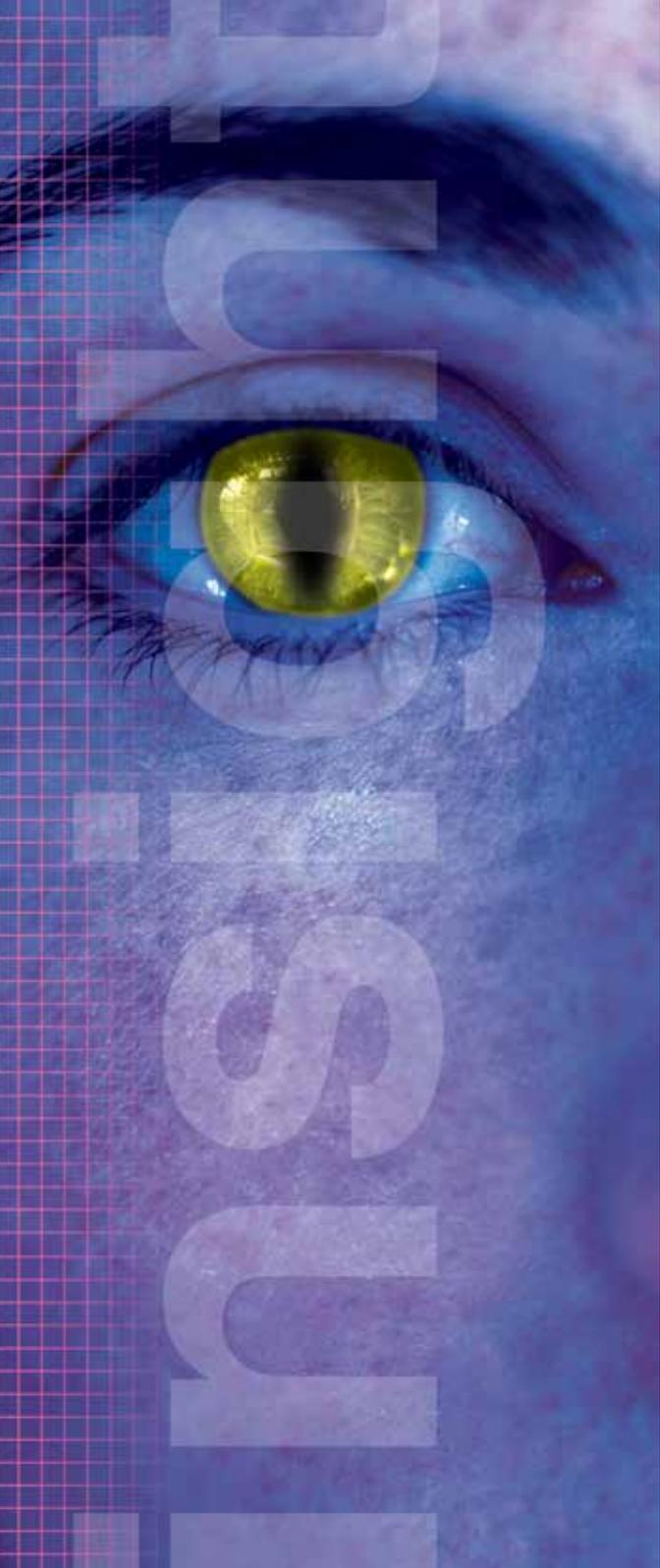
Real-time Mimic Display

Real-time production and process monitoring

Connected directly to your machines, Intouch monitors production and process in real-time to deliver live and accurate information to any part of your factory.

Real-time monitoring removes the costs and errors of collecting production and process data manually and enables your personnel to use their time more efficiently whilst the high visibility motivates production staff to keep machines operational.

Process data and key performance figures such as output speeds, run time, down-time, good/scrap production and utilisation, are graphically displayed on fully configurable and tailored displays, reports and graphs that can be seen at a glance.

All data collected by the monitoring system is recorded in the Intouch archive database. As well as being available to the Intouch reporting and analytics module, the archive database can be interrogated through industry standard software such as Microsoft Excel or SQL.

HMI/User Interface

Robust, high resolution and feature-rich user interface (HMI) hardware choices deliver key information and full operator control functionality to any device in the factory. With wi-fi option and the ability to view centrally controlled videos and documentation at the machine/point of manufacture, Intouch makes it even easier to seamlessly connect the boardroom with both your local and global manufacturing shop-floor operations.


Shop-floor Touchscreen/HMI User Interface

Energy Monitoring

Individual machine and asset energy monitoring makes it easy to identify excessive energy consumers and correctly allocate energy cost by person, machine, product, tool, material and production order. Decisions can be made to significantly reduce energy consumption.
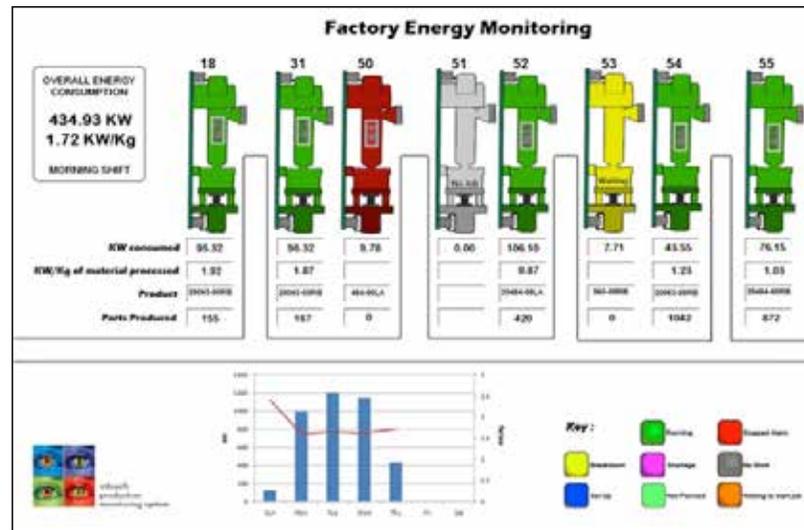
Energy Monitoring Alarming and Reporting
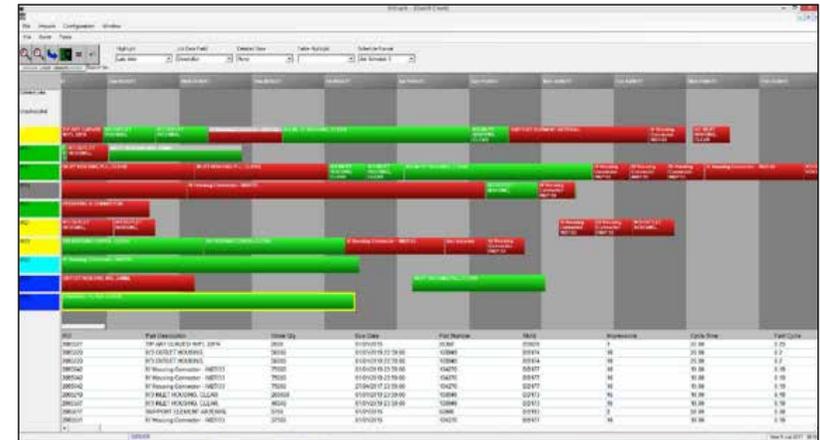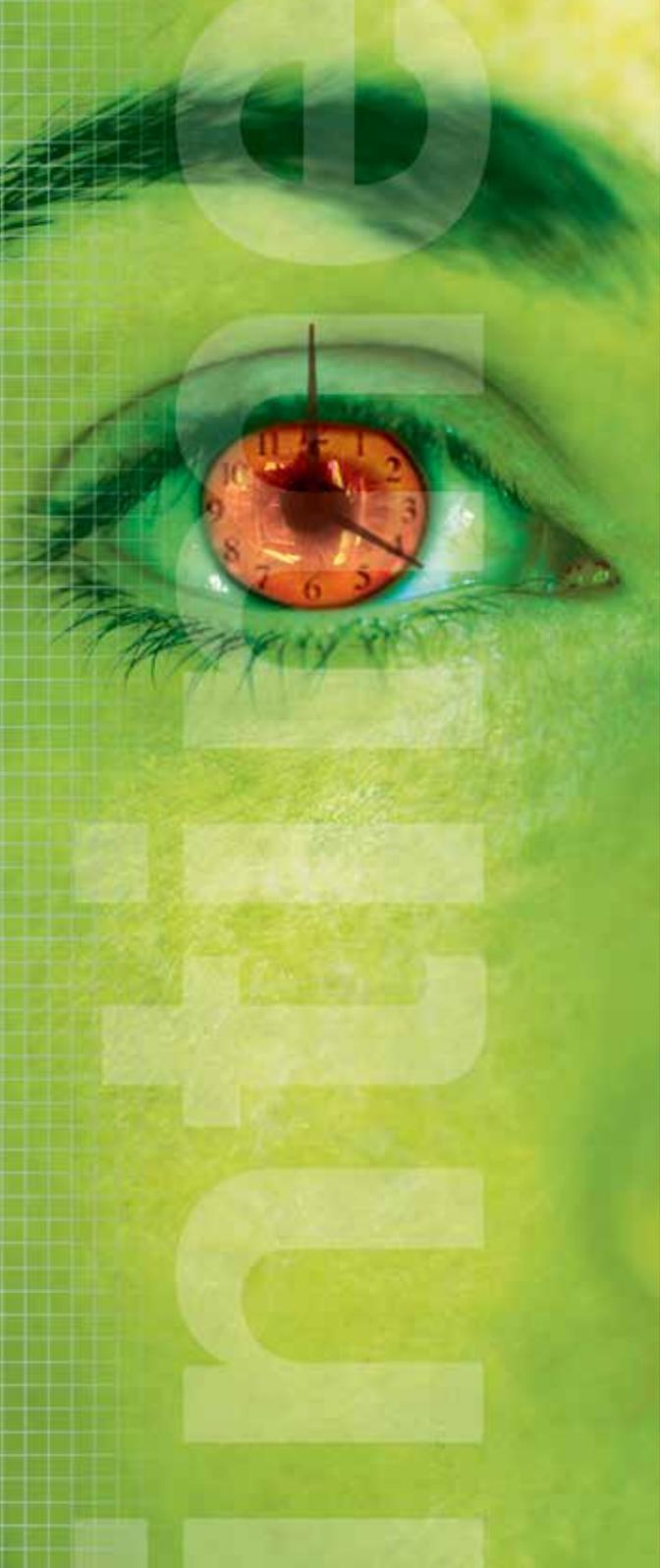
Real-time scheduling

Scheduling

Intouch's easy to use and intuitive scheduling module shows users what has happened as well as what is coming up; allowing users to plan rather than react.

The job schedule view gives details of each job enabling operators on the shop floor to better prepare for upcoming tool and/ or colour changes and to significantly reduce changeover times. Jobs can be input manually or downloaded automatically from your existing manufacturing system.

The Gantt chart view provides a graphical visualisation of machine loading and capacity utilisation. Rescheduling is easily achieved through a simple drag and drop operation. Jobs on the Gantt chart can be highlighted for various reasons. For example, to identify tool changes, late jobs or resource clashes.

The plan takes your shift pattern into account, as well as any planned maintenance, overtime or shutdowns. Furthermore, each individual job can be forward scheduled or backward scheduled to highlight spare capacity.
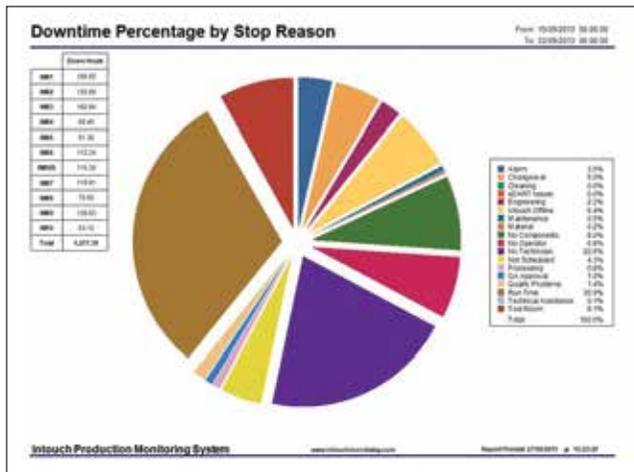
Customised reporting

Intouch analytics

Reporting and analytics

All data collected by Intouch is automatically and accurately recorded in the archive database and made available to the Intouch reporting and analytics modules.

The data enables informed decisions to be made to streamline production operations and monitor key processes to better control final product quality and to achieve a 'zero defect' policy.

Reports can be configured for any selected time-period and available by machine, tool, product, workgroup or operator with many key performance figures such as OEE, scrap, down-time or any other custom defined parameters.

Reports can be generated on demand at any computer configured as an Intouch terminal or programmed to automatically print at the end of each shift, day, month or any custom set time period.

Enhanced Reporting and Analytics (Intouch Business Intelligence)

Delve deep into reports and make sense of your data with our new fully customisable, agile and flexible Intouch Business Intelligence software.

Designed to be intuitively used; analytical dash-boards and reports are easily built allowing users to better interpret problems, answer questions, uncover opportunities and make optimal business decisions.
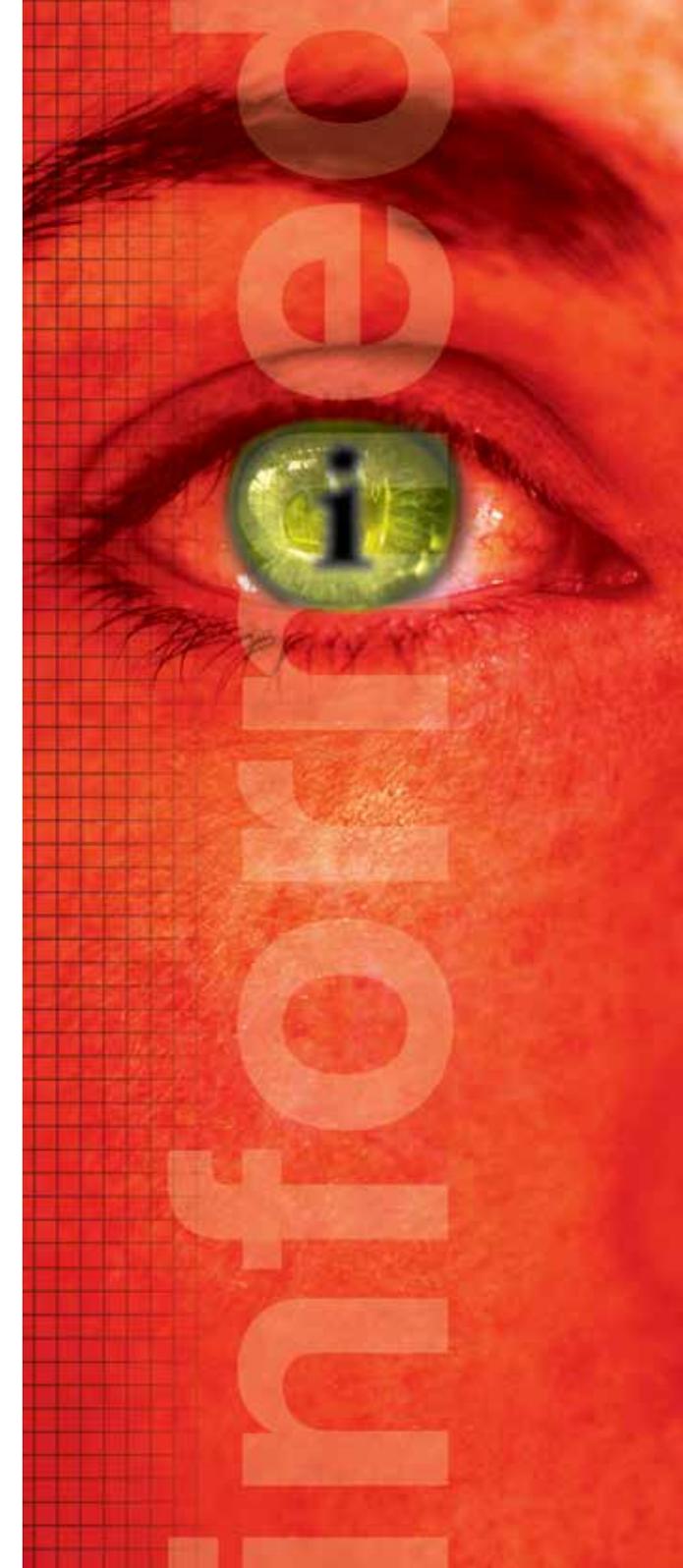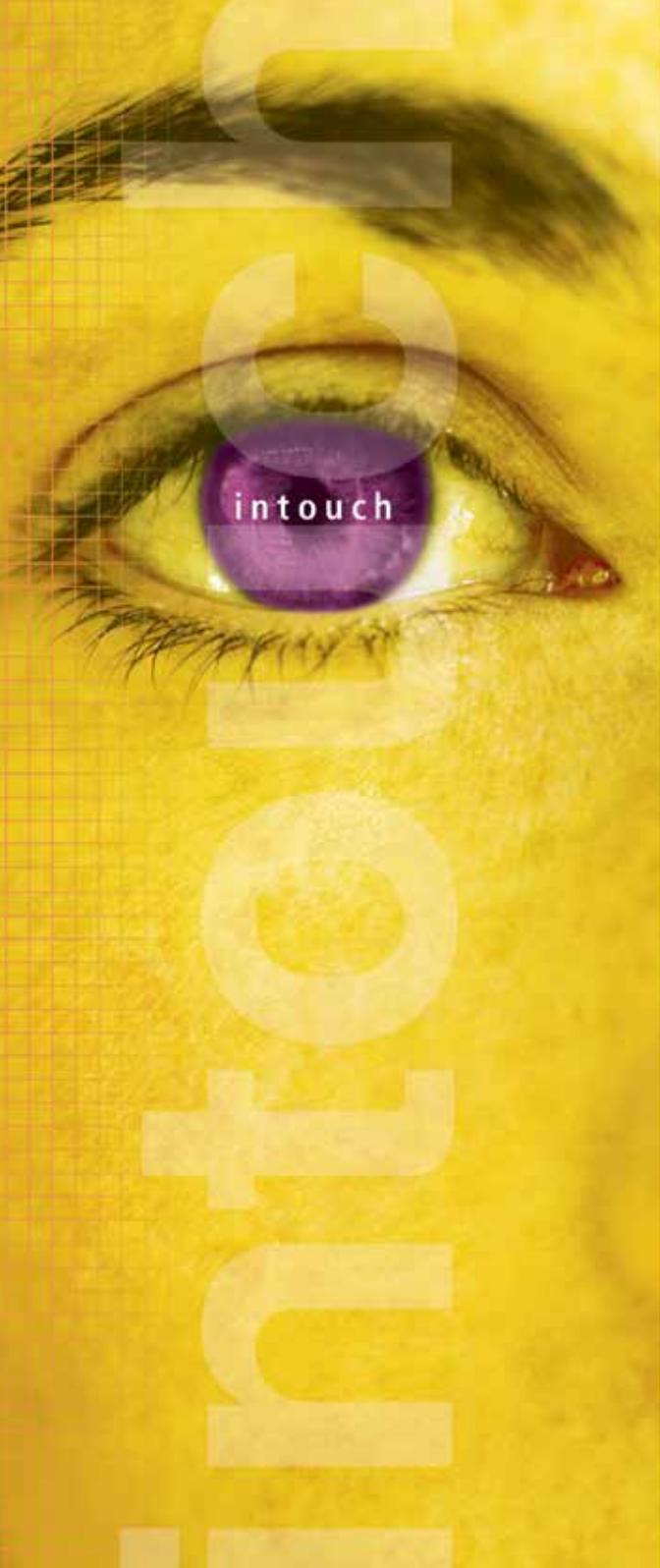
New Intouch i4 Cloud

At Intouch, we believe that all manufacturers should have the tools to make the best production decisions. Intouch has spent more than 20 years ensuring that our system gives users the visibility and control to easily make decisions which consistently lead to significant improvements in OEE and profitability. We have now made it even easier to get up and running and with very little capital expenditure by introducing Intouch i4 Cloud.

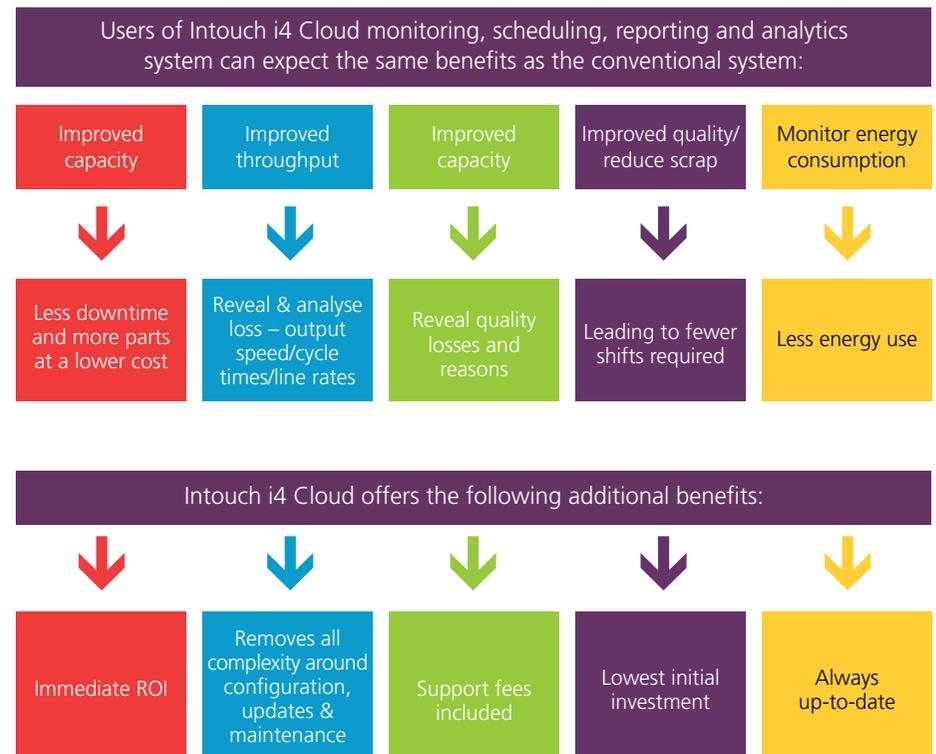Our new subscription-based i4 system provides the most common functionality of our conventional system but can be accessible immediately via the internet and easily scalable according to requirements. Support, updates and backups will be managed by Intouch, leaving you to concentrate on your core manufacturing business.

The revolutionary cloud technology is responsible for the huge leaps in advances we are experiencing today. Companies worldwide are investing in the cloud to capitalise on the best technology available, usually with significantly less capital expenditure. However, entrusting critical company and production data is not a decision made lightly, which is why it is recommended that companies choose providers that are well established and with an impeccable reputation, such as Intouch. Established in 1997 and with systems installed in over 300 sites worldwide across a variety of industry and production processes, Intouch is a company you can trust.

Users of Intouch i4 Cloud monitoring, scheduling, reporting and analytics system can expect the same benefits as the conventional system:				
Improved capacity	Improved throughput	Improved capacity	Improved quality/reduce scrap	Monitor energy consumption
⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇
Less downtime and more parts at a lower cost	Reveal & analyse loss – output speed/cycle times/line rates	Reveal quality losses and reasons	Leading to fewer shifts required	Less energy use

Intouch i4 Cloud offers the following additional benefits:				
⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇
Immediate ROI	Removes all complexity around configuration, updates & maintenance	Support fees included	Lowest initial investment	Always up-to-date

Company profile

Karl Edwin and John Hardwick, as founders of intouch have between them a wealth of experience within the manufacturing industry with involvement in production management, logistics and software.

Since its foundation in 1997, intouch has remained totally focused in providing **easy to operate, easy to learn, quick to install, flexible and affordable systems** with outstanding customer service.

Installed in over 300 sites worldwide with installations from 5 to over 200 machines, Intouch systems work with many different processes:

- Injection moulding
- Thermo-forming
- Metal-forming
- High-speed print
- Extrusion
- Food processing
- Blow-moulding
- Die-casting
- Metal extrusion
- Cable manufacturing
- CNC machining

Industries

Intouch has clients from a multitude of industries including aerospace, construction, medical, precision engineering, packaging, automotive and many more. Our clients enjoy the following benefits:

- More **CAPACITY** without more assets
  Less downtime for more parts and less cost
- Improve **THROUGHPUT**
  Reveal and analyse loss – output speed/cycle-time/line rates
- Improve quality/**REDUCE SCRAP**
  Reveal quality losses and reasons
- Improve Overall Equipment Effectiveness/Efficiency **OEE**
- Improve use of (direct & in-direct) labour – **REDUCE COST**
- Monitor energy consumption – **LESS ENERGY USE**

Intouch enables our customers to adhere to strict standards, reduce risk, improve compliance and traceability, meet product safety standards, raise quality and achieve a 'zero defect' policy.

What our customers say

"We introduced the intouch Production Monitoring system in 6 plants during 2014 and have been delighted with the information it has provided. Since introduction it has provided real time information on how our plants are performing in terms of Speed, Availability and Yield which has enhanced production recording and process improvement activities across our business.

In some sites, we have already seen up to a 20-30% increase in OEE which we wouldn't have been able to properly quantify without this system in place, the intouch Production Monitoring system has therefore been a major part to our success in 2014 and I'd certainly recommend it as a manufacturing tool."

James Jeffcott, Hanson Building Products (Aircrete and Brick Division), Measham

"intouch monitoring has proven to be the workhorse system that our facility needed for a dedicated approach to managing production and operational efficiency.

Tech Molded Plastics, Inc. is vested in technology that focuses its value on solving problems. Tech has investigated several production monitoring systems that attempted to blend moulding process monitoring with production monitoring and they did not function well enough in either category. intouch monitoring solved our challenge for managing production efficiency with the expertise of a dedicated production system. We've been very pleased with the results."

Mark Hanaway, Tech Molded Plastics Inc, Meadville, USA

"We have worked with intouch for almost 15 years and they have demonstrated an innovative approach to continuously improving their product, this strategy always starts with listening to the customer and together we have been able to achieve so much more from the product than our original expectations.

In a manufacturing environment where customers expect more for less it is vital to continue to drive costs out of your processes and the in depth analysis provided by our Production Monitoring System is integral in this objective."

Trevor Drew, Plastique Limited, Nottingham

What our customers say

" The system has made an incredible difference to our productivity and overall efficiency. In fact since it was installed we have been able to go from a seven days a week operation to five days, yet still produce the same number of parts." The system integrates with TP Moulding's own database which is used for recording orders, planning, purchasing and stock control. Each time new information is inputted into the database the intouch system is automatically updated. "The system makes scheduling so much easier and eliminates the need for time consuming paperwork. "

Dave White, TP Moulding, Telford

" The (Intouch) system has without question increased our profitability and our blue chip customer informed us that Intouch Monitoring gave us the point of difference compared to other suppliers. "

OnePlastics Group
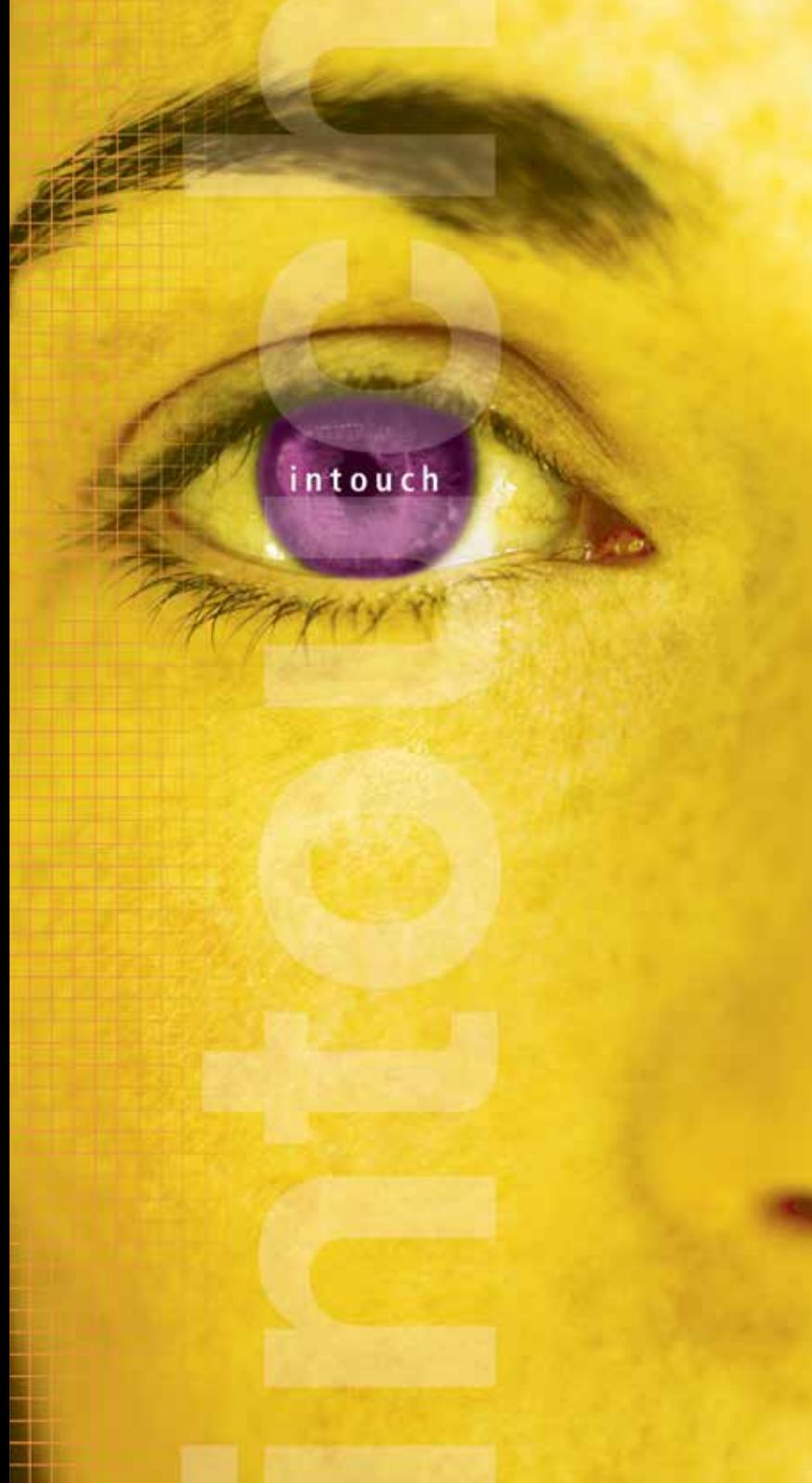
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