

# Software for Manufacturing

## Updated Estimating Software for OEMs

MTI Systems, W. Springfield, MA, a provider of cost-estimating software for manufacturing, released Costimator OEM V8.0, an upgrade that features a significant expansion of the program's knowledge databases, enhanced reporting capabilities and new import/export functionality.

Costimator OEM V8.0 provides OEMs with the knowledge needed to identify and understand the cost drivers in the parts they manufacture and procure. By breaking down and quantifying the true costs of manufactured parts, Costimator OEM allows companies to implement uniform and predictable costing strategies while reducing the cost of parts, from design through procurement.

V8.0 has more than 2400 different work centers that cover hundreds of manufacturing processes. Each work center comes with average labor and shop rates for several countries, including the United States, Mexico and China. The new import utility provides a quick, convenient method of importing material and purchased-item pricing. In addition, an enhanced Crystal Reports engine allows users to customize an array of reports.

**write no. 210**

## Forming-Feasibility Software Offers Breakthrough Technology

Forming Technologies Inc. (FTI), Oakville, Ontario, Canada, has released FormingSuite 5.0 for metalforming feasibility analysis and costing. Among its innovations is a CHI (coupled hybrid inverse) that improves blank-size and formability estimates for thick parts; topology-based skinning that can handle corrupt geometries and also eliminate hours of manual cleanup; and a process-history tree that captures design-optimization iterations and connections, ideal for use as a standard for specific classes of parts.

**write no. 211**

## Management Software Lets Ryerson Tackle Six Sigma

Shoplogix, Oakville, Ontario, Canada, a developer of real-time performance-management software, announced that Ryerson Inc. has selected Shoplogix Plantnode as the foundation of a Six Sigma strategy focused on process improvement. Ryerson purchased Plantnode with the goal of driving significant

improvements in productivity.

"Plantnode will provide the key to the development of a sound data-collection plan, to gather reliable and statistically valid operational data," says Craig Tompkins, Ryerson vice president of operations.

In one day, the Ryerson plant in Shelbyville, KY, implemented Plantnode on its cut-to-length line. Jeremy Brown, a Ryerson Six Sigma Green Belt and project manager, says that in an 8-hr. shift the line achieved a 19-percent increase in productivity, and he expects a return on investment of 140 percent with a payback of 28 days.

Says Brown: "We selected Shoplogix because it's a well-designed solution that simplifies the entire data-acquisition process, it's easy to use, and it can scale when we're ready to fully use its performance-management capabilities."

**write no. 212**

## ERP Program Supports Needs of Small Manufacturers

PhyleTec, Holly, MI, announces new functionality to support manufacturers with only a few routing steps and materials in their processes, or those companies that may outsource much of their

process. PhyleTec has added new modules consisting of bills of material, manufacturing-order management, scheduling and labor tracking. Combined with robust inventory-management functionality, these new capabilities make the software a good choice for companies that have been avoiding installing an enterprise-resource-planning (ERP) system due to their complexity.

"This is all that a typical small manufacturer needs," says Tom Bellinson, PhyleTec's vice president. "Most small manufacturers are primarily concerned with tracking inventory because that's where the money is. We can help them do that while also letting them communicate about the manufacturing process much more efficiently than they have in the past."

**write no. 213**

## Sheetmetal Stamper Relies on New ERP Suite to Handle Growth

Stewart EFI, Thomaston, CT, a supplier of precision deep-drawn and progressive-die stampings as well as slideformed parts and secondary assemblies, has replaced its customized proprietary ERP software with the Oracle E-Business Suite, to "provide the flexibility to grow without diverse customer and business needs," says Philip Rejeski, Stewart EFI's vice president of operations and general manager. The firm turned to Core Services Corp., Morristown, NJ, a certified partner in the Oracle PartnerNetwork, to help implement the software package.

Among the benefits of the new software are the inclusion of Oracle Accelerators, "which will help Stewart EFI create lean-manufacturing configurations and processes leveraging demand-driven release management," says Kirsten Hausserman, vice president of Core Services' Consulting Group. Additional applications include Oracle Product Lifecycle Management, a quality-analysis program designed for the automotive industry.

**write no. 214**