

V-VIZ SEE ASTA TEAMPLAN BECOME THE BACKBONE OF THEIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

► SUMMARY

The Business Context

- ▼ As a global machine vision solutions provider, V-viz manages many projects at a time which are all intensely complex and unique.
- ▼ Ensuring every aspect runs smoothly, together and to time is the backbone of V-viz's success.
- ▼ The team of highly specialist engineers must allocate their time where and when it is most needed on each project.

The Challenge

- ▼ V-viz needed a clear picture of resource allocation.
- ▼ Current tools were not robust enough for the task.
- ▼ Any replacement would need to be rolled out with least disruption to the business.

The Solution

- ▼ Asta Teamplan was installed to replace Microsoft Project. Initial training was carried out quickly and ongoing training continues on live projects, at a controlled pace and with no disruption to day-to-day business.
- ▼ All processes and procedures were formalised and documented into one central repository.

The Benefits

- ▼ Resource and time, skill and experience are now allocated efficiently and, importantly, visibly. This has aided planning and on-time delivery.
- ▼ Asta Teamplan has been used to centralise all processes and procedures and provide documented evidence of their quality management system.
- ▼ The ability to quantify and qualify the technical and commercial requirements of Siemens led to V-viz being certified as their dedicated Technology Solution Partner.



V-viz, based in Warwickshire, is a leading provider of complete machine vision inspection and traceability solutions for manufacturers, operating primarily in Europe but with large contracts in the Middle East. Machine vision is a technology that uses cameras and software to acquire images for the purpose of inspection and analysis.

V-viz offers leading-edge 'Product Lifetime Solutions' to manufacturers and brand owners across all industries; its automated machine vision quality inspection processes are used in the production cycle and their traceability technologies aid control, process flow, location and product authentication inline. The company's highly experienced and qualified engineers specify, integrate and commission the cutting-edge solutions that help global organisations to enhance and develop their strategies from the manufacturing floor all the way through to the point of sale.



and ongoing support and maintenance. The projects managed by the engineers, therefore, are inherently complex. A single project can involve feasibility studies, design and specification, line trials, integration and commissioning, component sourcing, third-party subcontract and onsite and remote support. The engineers manage the fine detail of multiple projects from receipt of order through to final commissioning, and this can take several months at a time. Along this path, critical milestones must be achieved before the project can progress to the next stage. So, V-viz was an organisation particularly in need of a specialist project management system that could track every step of the way.

► THE CHALLENGE

V-viz takes full responsibility for its end-to-end solutions, covering all aspects of process control, software, automation

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The company had been using Microsoft Project for some time, but found that something more robust and all-encompassing was required.

► THE SOLUTION

Then a third-party developer working with V-viz recommended Asta Teamplan from Asta Development. Mark Worlidge, Managing Director of V-viz, and Claire Whatley, Financial Controller, visited Asta along with two other key representatives from engineering and technical sales; they wanted to be sure that everyone in the organisation would feel comfortable using it. They assessed the software while they were there. "Just that one day with Asta Development convinced us that Asta Teamplan fitted our business need completely," said Mark. "Its functionality exceeded that of others we had tried; we liked its flexibility and ease of use and, importantly to us, its training model meant minimum disruption to our business. We discovered that we could integrate the tool over a few days, spread over a period of months as and when we were ready for it. This was hugely beneficial to us, and given the technical support that came with it, we knew that Asta Teamplan was the right fit for our company."

V-viz has now been using Asta Teamplan for two years. After initial training, Mark and his team were able to learn deeper as a job progressed. They staggered training throughout the year, using Asta Teamplan

on live projects from the start. This non-theoretical but practical approach was perfect; it allowed them to build up knowledge of the tool before learning to use more functionality.

► THE BENEFITS

Mark explained why Asta Teamplan has worked for them: "As a small company we don't have a bank of engineers waiting to be assigned projects. We have highly specialist and experienced engineers whose time must be allocated skillfully where and when it is most needed on each project. We needed to have a clear picture of resource allocation, full visibility of where resource and skill are dedicated and where we need to assign it. We need to plan for trends: when we are over- or under-resourced; whether we need to outsource, subcontract or use temporary additional resource. Asta Teamplan allows us to manage people's time and, most importantly, to fulfill our customers' needs and never let them down."

V-viz had another extremely good reason for implementing Asta Teamplan. "We were planning to attain ISO9001," explained Claire. "We knew it was hugely important to formalise our project management procedures and processes. This tool would

help us to demonstrate not only to the assessors but ultimately to our customers that we have everything documented, in control, planned and visible. In fact, Asta Teamplan has become the backbone of our quality management system; I would go as far as to say that we have built our quality processes around it," continued Claire.

In her capacity as Financial Controller, Claire is convinced of the financial benefits that Asta Teamplan will bring to the business in the near term, but the operational benefits she can see right now. "Most rewarding was when Siemens certified us as a specialist Technology Solution Partner for its industry-leading machine vision solutions. We were able to quantify and qualify the technical and commercial requirements Siemens was demanding: in short, we could demonstrate that we are able to achieve the project timings that we had specified."

"How has using Asta Teamplan changed our business?" mused Mark. "Not only did it give us credibility with our clients and Siemens, it has reflected on how other companies out there view us as a proven specialist in the high-end vision solutions market."



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