

From spreadsheets to smart manufacturing: Olympus Precast optimises processes with new software solution

Managing a precast concrete plant that manufactures products for both residential and commercial construction requires precision, coordination and real-time transparency across multiple departments. Olympus Precast, a diversified manufacturer in Utah, USA, serving both market segments, has partnered with the Progress Group to implement the aheadSuite software solution.

The challenge: Managing complexity with legacy systems

Prior to implementing aheadSuite, Olympus Precast faced the usual challenges encountered by many medium-sized precast manufacturers: several unconnected spreadsheets for managing production schedules, delivery logistics and stock tracking. Coordination between departments was manual, time-consuming and prone to errors.

Ricardo Tapicha, Managing Director at Olympus Precast, explains: "We used five different spreadsheets to manage our

processes. It took a considerable amount of work just to synchronise everything across departments. "As residential and commercial products were manufactured in the same facility, this added to the complexity." This fragmented approach wasted valuable working time that could have been spent on production and customer service, whilst also leading to communication gaps.

Unified transparency across the entire plant

When assessing ERP solutions, Olympus Precast prioritised a system that met the following requirements:

- Seamless management of product lines for both residential and commercial construction
- Reduction in manual data entry and synchronisation
- Real-time transparency of operational processes
- Integration with existing machinery investments



The production planning module provides Olympus Precast with complete transparency: from capacity planning through order sequencing to resource allocation.



The KPI dashboard from aheadSuite offers a complete capacity overview, scenario planning and bespoke analyses.



The Angle Pro saw cuts concrete at any angle.

The aheadSuite software from Progress Group met all requirements. Thanks to the platform's flexible design, Olympus Precast was able to configure standardised processes that cater to the company's diverse product portfolio. "Based on our previous experience with Progress Group's hardware solutions, we already had a good relationship with the company," explains the team. "The software offers significant advantages in terms of waste reduction and considerably reduces the workload involved in managing operational processes."

Measurable improvements

Since going live, Olympus Precast has achieved measurable improvements across all areas:

Production planning and management

The production planning module has proved to be the feature with the greatest impact. Olympus now has complete transparency regarding capacity planning, order sequencing and resource allocation – and no longer has to rely on guesswork, as was the case with the previous spreadsheet system.

Transparency in stock levels

Project managers can now quickly access current stock levels for both residential and commercial product lines, enabling them to respond more quickly to customer enquiries and reducing the risk of production delays.



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The new extruder ensures minimal material consumption and faster curing of the prestressed hollow core slabs.

Optimised documentation

The consignment note template feature has standardised delivery documents, reducing administrative overhead and improving accuracy in dispatch processing.



Stock management of finished elements in aheadSuite

Improved communication

Perhaps most importantly, the centralised platform has fostered better communication between departments. Thanks to a single reliable source of data, staff in the fencing department and project managers are working with the same data, thereby reducing confusion and rework.

Implementation and partnership

Thanks to Progress Group's responsive support team, the transition from the legacy systems to aheadSuite went smoothly. Six Olympus Precast's staff members were efficiently brought up to speed thanks to the rapid reaction times of Progress Group's implementation team. "The collaboration with Progress Group during the implementation was excellent," confirms the team. "Their quick reaction times and cooperative approach ensured a seamless transition."

Investment in machine automation

Olympus Precast was also looking for a comprehensive solution for the high-quality production of hollow core slabs, with a focus on machine reliability, spare parts availability and technical support. UltraSpan, a Progress Group company, delivered a bespoke solution by implementing two sawing machines and an extruder for the production of prestressed hollow core slabs. These machines solved the customer's challenge and delivered immediate and significant advantages:

- Increased production capacity:**
 The new extrusion system increased production capacity, making the prestressed hollow-core slab business more profitable and competitive.



Prestressed hollow core slabs prior to dispatch to the customer.

• **Improved product quality**

The improved aesthetics of the prestressed hollow core slabs delighted customers and strengthened Olympus Precast's market position.

• **Reliability and reduced downtime**

The frequency and duration of machine breakdowns fell significantly, leading to uninterrupted production schedules and improved reliability.

The collaboration between Olympus Precast and the Progress Group is an example of how strategic partnerships and modern technology can transform operational challenges into opportunities for growth. By resolving these critical issues, Olympus Precast has not only overcome its immediate challenges but has also positioned itself for long-term success in the precast industry. ■



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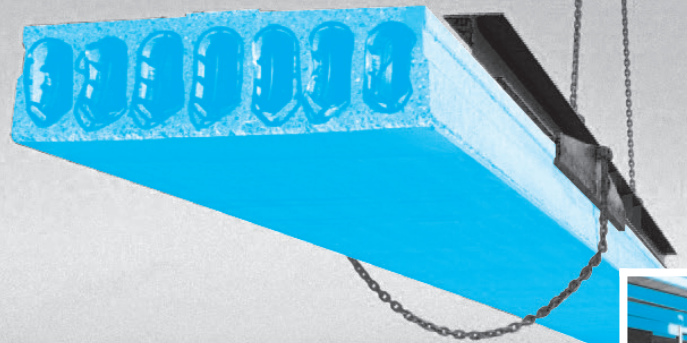


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