

# Customer Success Story for Detailed Scheduling in Building Materials



Owens Corning's goal was to implement a scheduling solution for its roofing and insulation manufacturing businesses that eliminated legacy tools and quickly provided a solution that met the distinct challenges of each business such as:

- Use a product wheel for the sequencing of products that consider changeover considerations in the setup mix
- Minimize raw materials waste when manufacturing different SKUs of insulation
- Determine best co-products to make that will meet demand and minimize excess trim

## Win Results

Implementing Aspen Plant Scheduler has improved the scheduling activities of the roofing and insulation business processes — from the automation of data management through the optimization of the production schedule.

- The ability to create a feasible schedule in minutes
- The ability to determine the best options for large changes in supply or demand
- The ability to visualize projected inventory curves to trim production as needed
- The ability to model 90% of business requirements with out-of-the-box capabilities
- The ability to produce process orders in SAP for each SKU in a combo, seamlessly
- The ability to model shared resources (labor, shrink wrap machine, etc.)

# Customer Success Story for Detailed Scheduling in Polymers



Westlake Chemical, headquartered in Houston, TX, is a vertically integrated manufacturer and marketer of basic chemicals, vinyls, polymers, and fabricated building products. Westlake's Longview site, acquired from Eastman Chemical, relied on a highly specialized system of spreadsheets for scheduling. The time-consuming process to prepare the 90-day schedule (4-6 hours per plant) and lack of standardization with Westlake's Lake Charles, LA, plant brought forth paramount challenges for management.

## Win Results

Aspen Plant Scheduler was implemented for the three Longview, TX, plants in two phases. Upon completion of the models, the Longview scheduler was able to create what-if scenarios to simulate business decisions, easily make changes to the schedule and view inventory and demand being consumed—capabilities they did not have with their system of spreadsheets.

The planning board Gantt chart makes it possible for Westlake to deal effectively with capacity issues and see results instantaneously when they make changes to the schedule. The scheduler can assess the impact of product changeovers and downtime, as well as highlight delivery date violations, allowing customer service to negotiate new delivery dates with customers.

Westlake Chemical achieved their scheduling goals of improving on-time shipments, better inventory management, more efficient product scheduling, and clearer insights into orders and forecasts. Thanks to Aspen Plant Scheduler.

# Customer Success Story for Detailed Scheduling for Specialty Chemicals



Cabot is a specialty chemicals manufacturer with 42 manufacturing facilities in 18 countries that revenues \$2.5 billion.

In order to streamline the scheduling process and improve schedule use at Carbon Black plants worldwide, Cabot had to eliminate the information gap that was a barrier to keeping the schedule current. Planning was performed regionally, scheduling was performed offline through customized tools at each plant, and executing events was done manually in the ERP system. As a result, schedulers were forced to spend the majority of their time gathering the data needed to make decisions.

## Win Results

Plants in Europe, North America, and South America are using Aspen Plant Scheduler to schedule and interface to Cabot's ERP system on a daily basis. Time spent by schedulers on data gathering has been reduced by over 80 percent. Schedule horizons have been increased by two weeks and schedule completeness has jumped from 50 percent to more than 90 percent.

Full integration using Aspen Supply Chain Connect has resulted in reduced working capital and the elimination of inventory buffers. Standardization of the data being used by the plants and a consolidated data view in a single interface allows more refined data to migrate down to a lower level and increases data availability outside the plant.

*"The visibility created is a huge step forward. Schedulers are now truly master schedulers instead of "expeditors". Aspen Plant Scheduler™ is telling them problems they didn't know they had"*

– Michael Straley and Anthony Phillips, Cabot

# Customer Success Story for Supply Chain Planning and Scheduling for Chemicals



## Major European Chemicals and Polymers Producer

This major European petrochemical leader manages four business divisions—Styrenics, Elastomers, Polyethylene, and Basic Chemicals— and coordinates the production and sales of their whole portfolio of products and brands. The customer wanted to support the following business initiatives:

- Replace the manual planning & scheduling process
- Improve customer service and optimize inventories
- Reduce costs associated with off-specification quality, campaign transitions, packaging, and logistics and distribution
- Integrate planning and scheduling with the ERP system

## Win Results

Implement aspenONE Supply Chain Management software to standardize planning and scheduling while being able to rapidly respond to changes in the business environment.

- 97% on-time accuracy for deliveries
- 10-20% reduction in inventory
- 10-20% reduction in the number of campaign transitions
- Reduction in packaging and transportation costs
- Improved customer service levels in terms of promised delivery date and order status information

*“Having more accurate and shared visibility into the data through AspenTech’s planning and scheduling solutions has not only allowed us to improve our relationship with customers via fewer stock-outs, more on-time deliveries, and greater flexibility to take on spot orders to meet customers demand, but also by improving transparency and increasing alignment and cooperation between marketing, sales, and production planning functions.”*

-IT Business Analyst