

Millbrook Furniture and DPS Advanced Scheduling:

- "Couldn't do without it"



Founded in 1946 as a small upholstery and bedding workshop Millbrook established themselves by refurbishing the luxury liners that sailed daily into Southampton Water. Success among such discerning customers, demanding the highest standards of workmanship, assured the future of the young company. Over the next 50 years Millbrook built upon this reputation to become the major U.K. manufacturer of pocket spring beds to a quality and design, which makes them the equal of any other on the market, both in terms of value and comfort.



In 1992 Millbrook began a search for a vehicle scheduling software package to assist in the planning and cost control of an ever-increasing number of delivery points. At that time their fleet consisted of 12 lorries, and manual planning was stretched to the limit with increased growth on the horizon. Key bullet points were the ability to mix product types, high street multi-drop deliveries with contract clients and to focus the fleet toward time and cost economy

whilst maintaining a flexible approach to the customer. They were impressed with DPS' understanding of their business needs and the ease of use of the software. Subsequently PlanLogiX was installed in 1993 with an ASCII data link to their "Inflow" sales order processing system from DataWorks.

PlanLogiX is now integrated to the whole manufacturing cycle enabling customers' orders to be planned in advance into loads based on the delivery date. A critical path production schedule is prepared, so calculating material requirements, and manufacture is planned on a "just-in-time" basis keeping storage to an absolute minimum. The loads created by LogiX are then processed through the warehouse and on to the vehicles using bar code data capture, and the driver provided with a delivery itinerary. Working with DPS and Dataworks, Millbrook continue to develop a truly integrated distribution package.

Operations Director Neil White comments: "From the very early days of implementing PlanLogiX we achieved significant cost savings and raised our efficiency profile with our customers. Since then the use of this tool has enabled us to develop to a fleet of over 30 vehicles, and the projected growth next year will be well within our capabilities."

IT Manager Clare Stannard says: "PlanLogiX is now so integrated into our production cycle that we couldn't do without it!"

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