

CASE STUDY

DURA-SHILOH

Dura-Shiloh is a global automotive systems supplier specializing in the design, engineering, and manufacturing of solutions that drive the evolution of mobility. With over 100 years of experience, they are recognized by leading vehicle manufacturers as a preferred partner of systems that improve safety and enhance driving performance.

Industry:
Automotive

Location:
Auburn Hills, Michigan

Results



Implemented Plex
at 15 plants



Achieved less than 1%
material variance



Standardized data
across all facilities



Dura-Shiloh is a global automotive manufacturer and supplier with a focus on all things mobility, from space frames and cross-car beams to seating systems and steering components. They are renowned worldwide, with 32 facilities in 13 countries across North America, Europe, and Asia. Dura-Shiloh works with both combustion engines and electric vehicles, giving them a leg up in the automotive manufacturing world. Their most recent expansion in North America is comprised of a state-of-the-art manufacturing site for electric vehicle battery enclosures.

By focusing on electrification, light-weighting, safety, and performance, Dura-Shiloh's pillars of technology, they have extended the customer experience and made a name for themselves across the globe. As they reinvent mobility and drive new product advancements, the team at Dura-Shiloh solidifies their position as a consistent partner for their customers and a prominent manufacturer in the automotive world.

When Plex was introduced as a potential ERP solution, the Dura-Shiloh team quickly determined that it would bring invaluable assets to the day-to-day workflow. Not only could Plex be implemented across all Dura-Shiloh locations, but the features within Plex's ERP were **created specifically for manufacturers**, appealing to Dura-Shiloh's business model.

Expectations, Plex Selection Process, & Planning

As their business expanded rapidly, Dura-Shiloh realized that in North America alone, their facilities were running on a total of seven different ERP Systems. This made it difficult to access consistent data from plant to plant.

Terry McKinney, Shiloh Director of Digital Transformation, stated, "We spent more time looking for the right data and cleaning it than we did capturing the data."

The team at Dura-Shiloh made a collective decision to simplify their facilities and switch to a single ERP system to increase both productivity and connectivity. Not only were they looking for one solution, but they also needed a system that was both user-friendly and could easily connect multiple facilities. By simplifying their ERP model and picking one solution that could both store and retrieve their data for reporting, Dura-Shiloh was confident in their ability to improve business and ultimately make more informed decisions moving forward.

Before any implementation could take place, the Dura-Shiloh team spent seven months strategizing and designing a method

that would later be used to simplify the implementation process from one plant to the next. A team of employees was formed, including project managers, system analysts, and shop associates, to ensure that all areas of the business were being represented in the implementation process. By developing a common model, Dura-Shiloh found a process that worked for everyone and can be expanded upon in the future as they continue to grow and acquire new business.

When Plex was introduced as a potential ERP solution, the Dura-Shiloh team quickly determined that it would bring invaluable assets to the day-to-day workflow. Not only could Plex be implemented across all Dura-Shiloh locations, but the features within Plex's ERP were created specifically for manufacturers, appealing to Dura-Shiloh's business model. By making the initial process a dual effort between Plex and Dura-Shiloh, both teams were able to communicate requirements and determine exactly what Plex was capable of in conjunction with Dura-Shiloh's expectations. The design process that was created allowed the team to easily combine Plex and Shiloh resources and better visualize the implementation. They also visited several representative sites to gather different implementation requirements and better understand the process before implementing themselves.

Implementations 1-15 & Advice

Shiloh partnered with Plex Professional Services to build and execute an implementation plan targeting deploying a standard solution model across their facilities. Since their initial implementation with Plex, Dura-Shiloh has fully implemented 14 additional plants. McKinney described these implementations as “flawless” and stated that now, “everybody can talk the same talk.” With one ERP system in place, all Dura-Shiloh facilities have a common language, and all team members are on the same page. Not only has this allowed communication to be streamlined but connectivity has drastically improved, too.

Dura-Shiloh’s Plex implementation yielded positive results quickly. As one example, physical inventory is checked on a yearly basis. After their first physical inventory check post-Plex implementation, one facility described how they had less than 1% material variance.

From one implementation to the next, the Dura-Shiloh team has become more accustomed to the process and gained more confidence. As they’ve found additional ways of measuring progress and success with each new facility that implements Plex’s ERP system, the process has also become more efficient. The learning curve of the initial implementation helped Dura-Shiloh prepare for future acquisitions and a transition to a high level of self-sufficiency. During the first two implementations, Dura-Shiloh had a Plex delivery consultant available on-site to answer any questions that employees may have had. After working closely with Plex and developing a strong internal implementation team that met consistently and provided support to the team when it was needed, Dura-Shiloh felt confident moving forward with more limited Plex assistance.





Given that Dura-Shiloh implementations are done on a plant-by-plant basis, the team has had the ability to carry out preliminary meetings with each plant prior to their Plex implementation. An additional kick-off meeting also takes place once the implementation process has started, ensuring that all steps of the process are outlined, and everyone understands the timeframe and expectations. All associates on the plant floor are trained directly on the Plex system, further ensuring success during each transition.

By having strong executive sponsorship and a centralized governance model, Dura-Shiloh was able to maintain a common

configuration and deployment approach throughout their rollout. This allowed them to quickly deploy each site live on Plex in under 16 weeks, an exceptionally expedient benchmark for an ERP deployment.

In the coming months, Dura-Shiloh has plans to take the next steps in their road to Industry 4.0. With 15 implementations already under their belt, the team is confident in their ability to self-implement moving forward. As they continue to expand business through acquisition, the **possibilities are endless for Dura-Shiloh with Plex in their corner.**

ABOUT PLEX

Plex, by Rockwell Automation, is a leader in cloud-delivered smart manufacturing solutions, empowering the world's manufacturers to make awesome products. Our platform gives manufacturers the ability to connect, automate, track, and analyze every aspect of their business to drive transformation. The Plex Smart Manufacturing Platform™ includes

solutions for manufacturing execution (MES), ERP, quality, supply chain planning and management, asset performance management, production monitoring, process automation and analytics to connect people, systems, machines and supply chains, enabling them to lead with precision, efficiency and agility. To learn more, visit www.plex.com.