

# White Paper:

## Asset Management in Manufacturing Industry



How Asset Management and  
Automation Drives Efficiency in  
Manufacturing



**IBM**  
**maximo**



**Fingertip**  
Knowledge where it's needed

All manufacturing businesses need to be as efficient as possible. When processes, systems and equipment are running smoothly, profit margins are maximised and optimum quality is achieved.

Enterprise asset management (EAM) software enables businesses to manage even the most complex range of assets over multiple sites. It allows them to:

- Save money through improved efficiency
- Maintain robust regulatory compliance
- Improve operational efficiency
- Maximise asset & equipment uptime and first-time fix
- Effectively manage supply and demand
- Ensure the highest quality products

EAM software will usually replace paper-based systems, which requires manual entry of data and results in duplication of work, with different processes being managed by different departments. This frequently results in errors, and requires continual checking and auditing.

With EAM software, the audit trail is built-in, so that every work order and process is signed off and captured digitally, at every stage; and the information is available to management in real time.

### Selecting the right system

There are many asset management solutions available to manufacturing businesses – and IBM Maximo is just one of them. This system is widely acknowledged to be the gold standard in EAM software.

IBM Maximo is Gartner's independently rated No.1 EAM solution for the past 10 years, and is widely used by blue-chip firms. This is because it addresses the entire lifecycle management of an organisation's physical assets to help them maximize value.

The alternative option – an ERP system – does not do this. Using an ERP system to manage assets may leave your organisation lacking in the areas critical to enterprise asset management: scheduling, workflows, standardization, key performance indicators, best practices, analytics and predictive maintenance.

To ensure your organisation is able to maximize the useful life of your assets, minimize risk, and pave the way for predictive analytics, there are better options. One of these is IBM Maximo.

IBM Maximo provides many benefits to manufacturing businesses, including:

- Integrates with other systems (e.g. ERP planning software)
- Fully configurable to business requirements and processes
- Manages and keeps track of fixed, mobile & variable assets
- Works on multiple sites, in different countries
- Creates a verifiable audit trail
- Improves workflow and efficiency
- Reduces asset downtime
- Removes human error



# Proactively maintaining company assets

Keeping track of mobile assets is often a major headache for businesses. EAM systems such as IBM Maximo enable exact knowledge of the location of all assets, using GPS data.

Knowing the location of all assets enables:

- More efficient allocation of resources
- Faster response times
- Instantly know where equipment is, when it's needed

Not only can IBM Maximo users escalate things quickly, but they can know exactly what's wrong, what is needed, and how it's going to be fixed. This ensures that the right technician is called out to fix it, and that they have the right level of expertise according to the complexity of the problem at hand.

Systems such as IBM Maximo can be used to not just proactively maintain equipment, but other business assets as well. This includes:

- Plant, machinery & tools
- Buildings and infrastructure
- Stock
- Vehicles & distribution

This aids effective auditing – and therefore ensures the complete safety of everything the business does.

## Robust regulatory compliance

The built-in audit trail provided by IBM Maximo is critical for businesses where regulatory compliance is essential, such as in the manufacturing industry; but it is also a vital management tool for any business which needs real-time information on its assets and processes.

It's now possible to add additional automated information into the EAM – for example, the geographical location of assets, using GPS data. This significantly reduces the potential for manual error in data entry and capture.

Asset management software helps to improve processes in a number of critical ways, including:

- Ensure assets & stock are where they need to be
- Optimise production vs. demand
- Keep all assets maintained in the best condition
- Guarantee an audit trail for all work
- Improve the first-time fix rate
- Reduce repair times & operating expenses
- Increase asset uptime

By optimising the supply of products with the demand for them, manufacturing businesses can minimise stock holding and maximise required output at the right time.

## How automation saves time and reduces errors

IBM Maximo and a mobile solution like Fingertip removes much of the scope for human error in asset management, by replacing multiple paper-based or spreadsheet systems with a central platform. IBM Maximo automatically optimises maintenance planning, stock location, and asset allocation, across multiple sites and asset types.

Verification processes can be added at any stage, in order to enforce proper processes – for example with configurable forms, and signature verification.

IBM Maximo can:

- Ensure that regulations are followed
- Schedule equipment maintenance
- Generate work orders
- Capture geographical location of assets
- Confirm that all tools and equipment are present, safe and calibrated

Data added to IBM Maximo is available immediately to all users – giving valuable extra management information.



# Remote working with Fingertip

In addition, IBM Maximo has built-in functionality to interface with mobile software, which allows IBM Maximo to be updated directly from the point-of-work, in real time.

A major provider of mobile solutions is Peacock Engineering, whose 'Fingertip' mobile add-on is one of the most sophisticated and flexible available. Fingertip can generate work orders from any location, and capture vital data at the point of work, saving businesses valuable time and keeping their system and assets running even more smoothly.

Fingertip can also be used in ATEX and DSEA hazardous environments, such as oil and gas facilities. It can work entirely offline if required, and updates IBM Maximo as soon as an internet link is restored.

## Manage the balance between supply and demand

Manufacturing businesses need to produce the optimal supply, in order to meet the demand. Knowing that stock is in the right place at the right time helps inventory management and 'just in time' ordering.

This is made easier by having accurate, up to date management information available to the business at all times.

Systems such as IBM Maximo can automatically tell users the demand for different products, and how supply is matching that. This removes the need to manually contact many different people and data sheets to find out this information. It also helps companies to meet their delivery schedules.

## Ensure strict health and safety procedures

When producing products for high risk sectors such as life sciences, stringent health and safety processes are required to ensure that hazardous materials are looked after properly. This especially applies if the equipment is live, or where there is a chemical plant.

IBM Maximo forces technicians to do what they're supposed to, and follow health and safety rules and regulations. This

means that all processes will be followed, and equipment will perform in a non-hazardous way – even when dealing with chemicals.

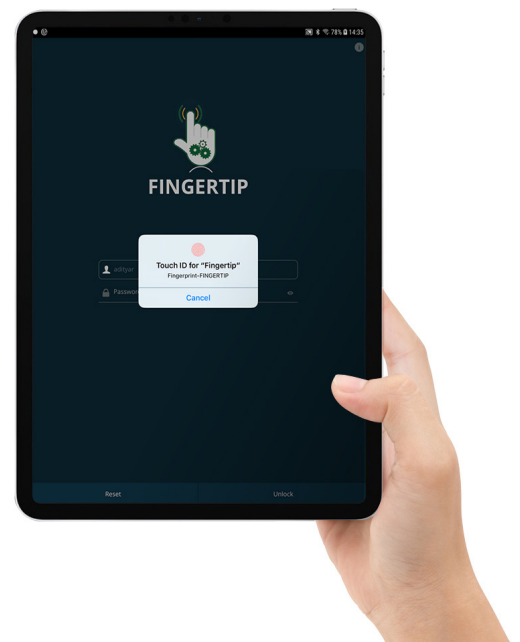
## Stringent quality control and assurance

As part of a business's manufacturing processes, strict quality control and assurance measures are required. Systems such as IBM Maximo help with this, because if the equipment that's manufacturing the actual products is properly maintained, then the products being produced will be to a higher quality.

It also helps with production line quality assurance testing, as IBM Maximo can highlight when a particular piece of equipment is producing too many errors. That way, users know when equipment needs to be checked and maintained. Efficiency is improved by speeding up this process.

## Consider all asset management options

There are many asset management solutions available to manufacturing businesses – and IBM Maximo is just one of them. By working with Peacock Engineering to install an IBM Maximo system, manufacturing businesses get access to the Fingertip add-on which enhances remote working.





## More information

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### About Peacock Engineering

Peacock Engineering Ltd was established to deliver a diverse range of Asset and Service Management solutions to asset intensive industries.

Our consulting team is made up of long standing IBM Maximo professionals, each with an average of 12 years' experience in the product and who, together, have amassed over 400 man-years of Maximo systems implementation experience.

From this knowledge and practical application, a proven and trusted process-driven methodology has emerged. With the methodology in place, the ongoing challenge is to improve delivery efficiency and provide affordable solutions, using a mix of services and systems provisioning models, to meet a broad range of industry verticals.

