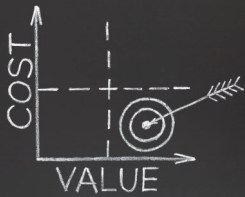


When manufacturers opt to deploy disparate automation solutions, the challenge of data



collection, analysis and management strains the capabilities of obsolete quality systems. Even after implementing new IT solutions to increase efficiency in quality management processes, the issue of interoperability only exacerbates the operational issues at hand. Surely, the evolution of OPC standardization offers a means to facilitate data transmission between disparate manufacturing components, but the problem of system administration from an enterprise-wide perspective persists even after deploying high-priced integrated software solutions.

### **Beyond Software Integration in 2013: Quality Management System Trends Facilitated by the IQS Solution**

Business decision-makers cannot afford to underestimate the human element of implementing new quality management systems. If deployed correctly, manufacturers can potentially achieve substantial ROI from integrated software solutions within one year. The key is to align integrated systems with current business practices by launching proactive training initiatives. Ideally, novel software solutions should be intuitive enough to take advantage of the technological literacy of quality management personnel.

Mobility is arguably one of the most exciting trends in the latest quality management software platforms such as the IQS solution. With the proliferation of mobile devices, quality management operators are now able to remain up-to-date on real-time data. Communication between IT departments, quality operators, disparate manufacturing sites and upper-level personnel can now be streamlined through software platforms that leverage the

mobile device phenomenon. Time-sensitive decisions are no longer subject to the inherent inefficiencies of disparate quality management systems as thousands of employees can view and report data in real time.

By leveraging the pervasiveness of mobile devices in the workplace, manufacturers can potentially lower the cost of data collection and analysis by as much as 75%. Support and data management expenses can drop by up to 50%, achieving total savings in excess of one million dollars in some instances. The nascent development of mobile device integration into quality management systems provides ample opportunity to increase this total savings figure even further.

The IQS software solution provides a framework to create a custom API tailored to the unique intricacies of existing quality management systems. Manufacturers also have the option to integrate data as an initial load or to update on a scheduled, as-needed basis. The flexibility of the IQS solution even extends to many of the most widely distributed enterprise systems used today.

Manufacturing industry experts agree that the success of quality management initiatives hinges on the ability of upper-level Management personnel to breed a new quality management culture. Integrated systems that combine intuitive training, mobile device elements and platform flexibility such as the IQS solution can help manufacturers stay ahead of the curve in 2013.