

## Unlocking Future Success

**Is Real Time Connectivity the Key?** Vivian Koser, IT Manager at Die-Tech, knows the flow of real-time information is critical. She believes that the future of a manufacturer may depend on its ability to access and share production, customer, and supplier information in real time.

Koser is persuasive when describing how computer systems and software as well as the Internet will play an increasingly critical role in future manufacturing processes.

Koser serves as the leader of a project team for CURTIS, an acronym for Comprehensive Unifying Real Time Information System. The team was formed to research, select, and implement a new computer information system; almost every employee has participated in the selection process. This system will store data in one central location that will be available to all Die-Tech employees.

The first phase of CURTIS will go live in January 2008. "At that point," Koser says, "employees will be able to share real-time information internally." After the implementation of the second phase, the system will be available through a portal to customers and suppliers.

Analyzing real-time data from the plant floor by employees can play an important role in meeting the demand for [consistent product quality](#) and [improving time to market](#).

"When real-time information is available to everyone, it is easier to have a collaborative discussion" says Koser.

"We can quickly agree on specifications or resolve an issue, and eliminate the delays in communication that slow down production," she went on to explain.

While there are obvious advantages to the company from installing CURTIS, are there also benefits for Die-Tech customers?

"If we are going to meet our customers' growing needs, weekly or monthly planning cycles for production are not going to work. We need to be far more responsive – down to the hour, rather than days or weeks," explains Koser.

With real-time connectivity, Die-Tech staff can respond to [challenges faced by our customers](#). Better product flow management and inventory control are just two of the areas expected to improve with CURTIS. And after the implementation of phase two, Die-Tech customers will be able to check their order status using the company's customer service portal.

"We always look for ways to streamline our operations and improve customer service," Koser adds. She revealed that the initiation of CURTIS came from the company's culture of continual improvement. "Our mission is to create solutions which enable people to realize their vision."

According to Koser, real-time connectivity will move beyond being the latest buzzword; perhaps it makes sense for you to connect with a metal stamper that is dedicated to helping unlock your future success.

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