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HOW TALLY JUMP-STARTED PRODUCTION VOLUMES AT DAMAN POLYTHREAD

With technology as its key ally, Daman Polythread, a yarn and narrow woven fabric manufacturer, grew and successfully increased its production by four times—in just over a decade.

Jalaja Ramanunni | BenefIT Bureau

Established in 2000, Daman Polythread manufactures polypropylene multi-filament high tenacity (PPMF HT) yarn and narrow woven fabrics. The company has two manufacturing units in Daman, a head office in Mumbai and an employee headcount of over 200. In just over a decade, Daman Polythread has increased its production of yarn and narrow woven fabric from 100 tonnes per month to 400 tonnes per month. Apart from pioneering the production of real PPMF HT yarn in India, the company also claims to be the largest manufacturer of this yarn in the country. Currently, it has a production capacity of over 5000 million tonnes per annum. The company credits its growth to the timely deployment of technology tools that helped it to integrate different functions, across locations, and achieve operational transparency.

Where technology spins a yarn!

One of the most important parts of Daman Polythread's set-up is its state-of-the-art infrastructure, which comprises fully computerised German

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technology-powered machines.

It also has a quality control lab where employees test the quality of the yarn by measuring the grams per denier (GPD). "In this process, technology is helping us effectively," says Mustafa Mansor Kudia, M D, Daman Polythread. "The industrial yarn is used in products like ropes, safety belts and sewing thread. We use an advanced, fully computerised tensile tester to grade our yarn and perform a quality control test to make it usable in the final product," he elaborates. The poly plast machine is used for tenacity checking and it gives a computerised and graphical representation of the yarn's breaking strength and elongation percentage. "We also use a metal wrap reel machine that produces reports on the finished yarn and gives details like the GPD, which helps to grade the yarn. We have a twister machine that checks the number of twisters per meter (TPM)," Kudia adds.

Customised solutions

Daman Polythread wanted to integrate the data generated by its yarn weighing machine with the company's ERP system. Antraweb Technologies, a master Tally partner, made this possible by integrating the weighing scale with its Tally ERP software. "This system doesn't require much manual intervention as it captures the weight accurately on the weighing scales and sends the information to the ERP system, so the challans get prepared immediately," explains Riyaz Tamboli, director, Antraweb Technologies. Earlier, employees used to pack the boxes and manually label them with details like their weight and grade, leaving room for errors. "Now, since the integration of the weighing scale with the ERP software provides these details in the challans automatically, there is no scope left for intentional or unintentional manipulation," says Kudia.

Automatic electronic challan creation is just one of the customised solutions that Antraweb has customised for Daman Polythread. The latter required a comprehensive solution to automate many of its functions including accounting, packing, invoicing, dispatching, creating customised reports, etc, which Antraweb agreed to customise for it. Tamboli reveals, "We did an internal study of the organisation to understand its way of working and its unique needs. Since the company had niche requirements, we customised the solution accordingly. Some of these solutions did not exist earlier and had to be designed from scratch. For instance, all information regarding challans is stored, batch-wise, but Daman Polythread manufactures a high number of batches—about 400 to 500 per day. We considered customising the solution on Tally to store these details but after an internal study realised that if it was done, the Tally ERP system would slow down, as the number of batches was far too high for the ERP system to control by itself. Thus, we decided to use an MySQL database to store this data and integrated this database with the Tally system. This way, when a challan is made, the information appears on the Tally system screen but the data actually gets stored in the MySQL database. This integration has enabled the smooth storage of the batch-wise information on challans."

Since Daman Polythread exports yarn, it requested Antraweb to also customise its invoicing function, for which, earlier, documents were prepared on Excel sheets. "Using the Tally system, we now get a

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comprehensive export document that includes invoice details, packing lists, multiple bills of materials, etc. This saves us a lot of time as we don't have to enter and work on the same data, over and over again," says a relieved Kudia. Many internal reports like invoices have also been customised to include stock information after the batches have been assigned grades.

Hurdles along the way

One of the key challenges that came in the way of automating operations across the company locations was in creating a connection between the processes taking place in its three units. Earlier, data generated in the factory unit was sent to the Mumbai headquarters in the paper format, which was then entered into the Tally system. This caused a delay and it was not possible to have a real-time view of operations, across locations. "The conventional solution for a problem of this nature is to synchronise the Tally systems across all the units. But in the case of Daman Poythreads, it was not possible to implement this as the Internet connectivity at some locations was an issue. This made synchronisation between the Tally systems across locations, ineffective, says Tamboli. A dedicated leased line for remote desktop connectivity (RDC) was established by Tulip Telecom to enable rapid and real-time connectivity between the Tally systems at the three units. This sorted out the connectivity issues. Information entered from any unit is now stored in the Mumbai office and all units get access to that data, in real-time.

The employees at the headquarters were accustomed to using the Tally ERP system prior to the deployment of the new solutions, but it took time to train the employees at the factories. Tamboli comments, "People who handled accounts were familiar with working on the Tally system but after the integration of multiple operations across locations on to one platform, employees at the production units were also required to know how the Tally ERP system worked. With time, they became acquainted with the change and the operations at the three units are now in sync and running smoothly." Kudia observes, "From our experience, I can say that the Tally ERP system is a user-friendly software and people can learn it easily. The only glitch we faced was in the migration of inventory data at the stock keeping unit (SKU) level, which runs into lakhs of entries. However, the solution is now capable of handling the volume."

The road ahead

Since October 2010, Daman Polythread has invested Rs 7 to 8 lakh in the customised solution. However, being satisfied customers, they plan to further invest in integrating other technology solutions with their ERP system. "One of the areas we're considering is the integration of the barcode printing system with the ERP software. Once this is done, it will speed up the invoice generation process and improve accuracy. Going forward, we also intend to integrate our biometrics system and security cameras with the ERP software," Kudia concludes. ●●