

JP1

One **Simplicity**

Case Study



NIKON (THAILAND) CO LTD

Hitachi JP1 Job Management Solution brings stability to production schedule, enhances J-SOX compliance and boosts IT efficiency.

A market leader in the manufacture of digital cameras, lenses and components, Nikon (Thailand) uses Hitachi JP1/AJS2 to manage jobs from its mission-critical applications.

The solution has enabled the company to mesh its applications, synchronise production activities, comply with compliance mandates, and boost efficiency in the IT department.

Part of the global Nikon Group, Nikon (Thailand) Co. Ltd. is a leading manufacturer of DSLR cameras, interchangeable lenses and digital camera components. Established in 1990, it is the Group's first and largest overseas production entity. Located just outside of Bangkok, it employs about 9,000 workers and received certification to the ISO 14001 standard for environmental management in 2007.

While Nikon (Thailand) is well-known for its precision manufacturing expertise, things were not as smooth when it came to scheduling and managing IT jobs that are critical to its core day-to-day production operations. Jobs were scheduled throughout the day on a daily basis and in a manual manner, with the extent of scheduling depending on whether jobs scheduled to run the day before or earlier the same day executed properly or not.

Likewise, job monitoring was done manually. Given the dynamic nature and the scale of Nikon (Thailand) shopfloor operations, with constant adjustments to the number and size of production runs, this meant that at least one IT staff member had to be on-site till about 9 pm each day to make sure that jobs executed properly in time and in the correct sequence, failing which the next day's jobs and production activities would be affected. Still, there was no guarantee that the jobs scheduled to start after the IT staff member had left would run properly, so for the IT department each new day would start with a frantic scramble to check that they did run as planned.



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*Jeerasak Phakhong
Assistant Manager
System & Planning Department*

| Needs | Solution | Benefits |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Do away with manual job management ■ Reduce IT man-hours spent on job management ■ Bring stability to production schedule ■ Improve compliance capability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Automated job management using Hitachi JP1/Automatic Job Management System 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Job creation, scheduling and status monitoring have improved significantly ■ Need for IT team members to be on night duty has been eliminated ■ Mission-critical applications are now tightly meshed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Production schedule is now more stable ■ Ability to comply with J-SOX has been enhanced |

Bottom Line Affected

Not surprisingly, job scheduling and managing imposed a heavy burden on the IT department. Of the 20 persons in the department, five were fully involved in scheduling and managing jobs alone. More importantly, the unpredictability of jobs and the impact of this on production activities meant that Nikon (Thailand) could not commit delivery times to its customers and this affected revenue adversely.

Recognising that the job management activities were exacting too high a toll on IT resources and the company's bottom line, Nikon (Thailand) set about looking for an automated solution. Through Material Automation Thailand (MAT), its longtime IT partner and Hitachi

Asia's reseller/distributor, the manufacturer came to know of Hitachi JP1/Automatic Job Management System 2 (Hitachi JP1/AJS2).

Besides Hitachi JP1/AJS2, Nikon (Thailand) evaluated several other solutions but found these did not measure up to the Hitachi solution in terms of features, level of automation and ease of use. "The top ranking of the Hitachi JP1 system management suite in Japan and other markets also tilted the decision in favour of Hitachi JP1/AJS2, as did the excellent working relationship between Hitachi Asia and MAT," said Jeerasak Phakhong, Assistant Manager, System & Planning Department, Nikon (Thailand).

Smooth Implementation

Hitachi JP1/AJS2 was implemented at Nikon (Thailand) by a joint Hitachi Asia-MAT team. The implementation went very smoothly, recalled Mr. Jeerasak, and the team were quick and adept at answering questions from Nikon (Thailand)'s own IT team, resolving initial hiccups, and so on, he added.

Now, with Hitachi JP1/AJS2 in full operation, the issues that Nikon (Thailand) had with job management have become a thing of the past.

"With Hitachi JP1/AJS2, we are able to centrally define, schedule and execute all jobs. The level of automation is very high and we have clear

visibility of job status and workflow. There is now tighter meshing of our mission-critical applications and timelier synchronisation of our production activities, and this has resulted in a more stable production schedule," said Mr. Jeerasak.

Needless to say, IT staff members no longer have to work nights to watch over jobs and can keep regular hours. In fact, the department has become more efficient, even though production volume has been ramped up since Hitachi JP1/AJS2 went 'live'. In 2008, the department won the in-house Quality Control Circle competition, the first time it has done so.

J-SOX Compliance

The use of Hitachi JP1/AJS2 has also enhanced Nikon (Thailand)'s ability to comply with Japan's Financial Instruments Exchange Law (commonly referred to as 'J-SOX'), which requires management to provide an assessment of its internal control over its financial reporting and obtain an auditor's opinion on management's assessment.

Going forward, Nikon (Thailand) plans to use Hitachi JP1/AJS2 to run jobs from applications other than those currently supported. The company is testing two complementary Hitachi JP1 desktop management solutions – JP1/Client Security Control and JP1/Network Monitor – with the aim of enhancing the security of its networked client PCs.



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About Nikon (Thailand) Co. Ltd. A member of the Nikon Group, Nikon (Thailand) Co. Ltd. was established in 1990 to manufacture cameras, lenses and camera components.

Located in Ayuttaya Province, it employs more than 9,000 persons. <http://www.nikon.co.th>

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