

Improving Postal Supply Chains

SMT Consulting is a specialist supply chain and business performance consultancy. It is unique in its focused methodology, leading-edge enabling systems, and its singular focus on delivering bottom-line business outcomes, fast.

SMT Consulting has been working in partnership with leading Australian and international companies for over 15 years. It has offices in Sydney and Melbourne and has carried out assignments across Australia, throughout Asia, the US, and the UK.

SMT Consulting is a leading provider of high-impact business performance solutions. We have a strong track record of delivering lasting performance in over 80 sites.

We specialize in providing the right analysis, methodologies, and people to bring your supply chain under control. What that means is an increase in both profitability and performance for your organization and the knowledge that our solutions are sustainable in the long term.

- Demand Planning & Advanced Forecasting;
- Supply Network Planning;
- Detailed Production Scheduling;
- Available to Promise; and
- Postal Optimizer Interface.

SMT CONSULTING IN POSTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Postal organizations everywhere are under considerable pressure to improve their operations. They need to reduce costs and improve delivery performance. They desperately need to improve the utilisation of their resources, both machine and labor.

The optimal allocation of labor and machine resources within process operations is not a new problem. Manufacturing companies have been confronting resource allocation issues in their production facilities for many years. Many software tools and techniques have been developed to optimize manufactur-

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Clients include: Asea Brown Boveri, Alesco, Australia Post, Royal Mail (UK), BHP Steel, Boral, Capral Aluminium, Dairy Farmers, Dulux Paints, HJ Heinz, Kimberly-Clark Paper, OPSM, Pacific Dunlop, Pfizer, and Southcorp.

SUPPLY CHAIN CONSULTING

Management Consulting as defined by SMT is a process whereby we introduce our unique perspective to a company's management team. This perspective has evolved from our combined experience and innovative methodologies. The effect is to challenge the assumptions, inherent in many established organizations, providing new options for management.

THE SMT TOOLS

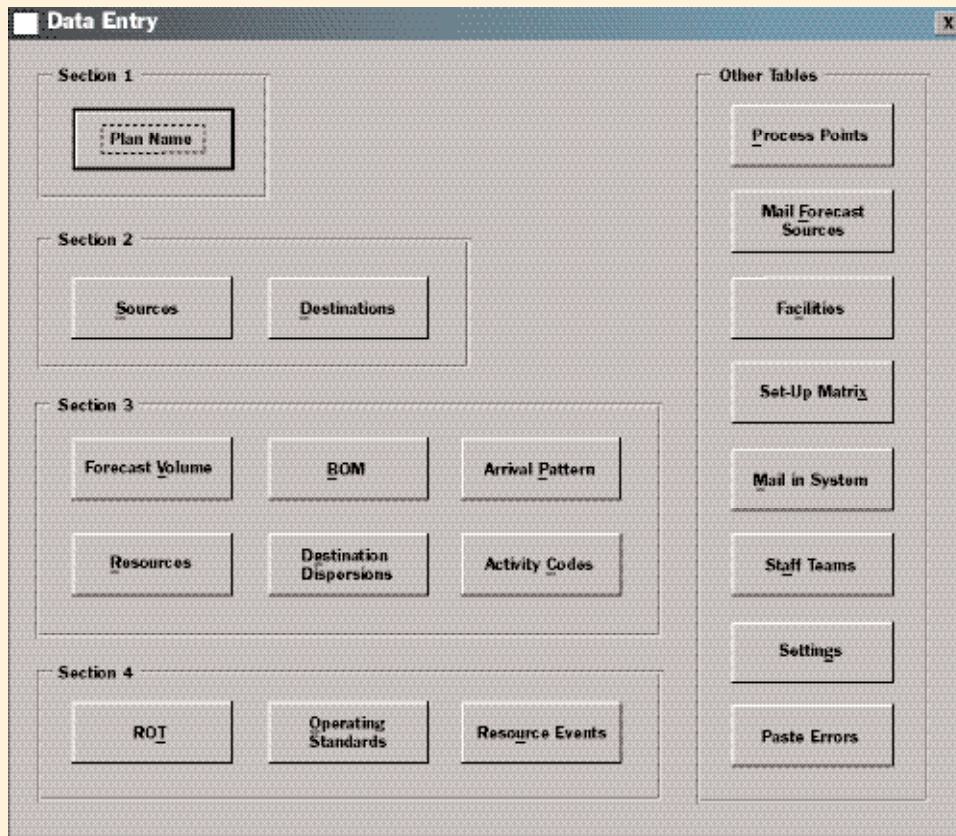
SMT specializes in the implementation of advanced planning and optimization processes, including:

ing processes. These tools have proven to be more or less successful in various process types.

Process industries, where instead of combining components to make the end product, a single starting material is separated into streams which may be further processed or separated into many final products, have been difficult to plan and schedule with software tools. The relatively recent introduction of finite capacity scheduling software has overcome many of the limitations of previous tools.

Postal sorting facilities have many characteristics in common with manufacturing process industries that have been able to achieve improved service and significant cost reductions through the use of these tools.

A serious limitation to the use of these scheduling tools in posts has been the ability to fashion them to meet posts' unique needs; in particular, the management of the data needed to build the schedules.



The tools have been developed in the language of manufacturers and are constructed around customer orders, bills of material, routes, and process rates. This is not the form of data used to understand and manage mail sorting facilities, and additional software is needed to translate posts' data for use in the scheduler.

In addition, the focus of scheduling tools in a postal environment is different from a manufacturer's. In a postal environment the major focus is on the allocation of resources of labor and machines to meet "tie-down" times. Manufacturers focus primarily on the customer orders. This different focus also means that special reporting features are required to supplement standard reporting packages.

SMT has developed a postal optimizer interface that enables posts to use the

power of planning and scheduling software that has been developed over many years for the manufacturing and process industries. The interface includes data entry and maintenance and the translation of post data into a form suitable for scheduling software. This enables posts to use and maintain much of the data currently available within their systems and to maintain it in a form that is meaningful to them. In addition, the interface contains a series of reports focused on postal information.

SMT Consulting's depth of experience in planning and scheduling resources in the processes industries and its considerable experience in Australia Post and within Europe establish us as a leader in planning and scheduling of mail sorting facilities.



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