SOURCING & PRODUCTION PLANNING TOOL





New York, USA Dallas, USA Cork, Ireland New Delhi, India

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Overview

Many retailers rely on their own private brands to offer their customers exclusive product with extraordinary value. Depending on the number of categories and SKUs, sourcing private brand product can require significant resources on many levels in the organization. If product is globally sourced an even deeper layer of complexity is involved. Managing the global sourcing planning process varies greatly and very few tools exist to ease the process. Most retailers rely on inefficient and error-prone spreadsheet-based solutions.

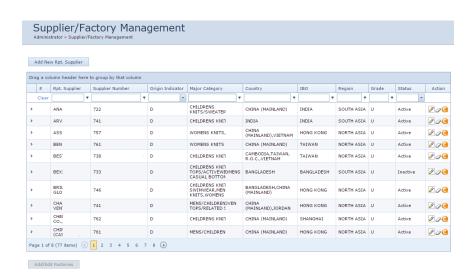
Enhanced Retail Solutions' broad knowledge and experience led to the development of an online solution that can significantly help global sourcing organizations manage their supplier matrix, create, manage and track their financial plans, create and manage item plans and manage the production planning process more effectively and efficiently. The system allows Sourcing Directors, Production Planners and Executives to reconcile top-down financial plans with bottoms-up item planning. Following a best practices approach to Sourcing, the system starts at the beginning of the process with a simple Buyer's Shopping List. Plans start when items and categories are just ideas. As details become available, such as FOB costs, retail prices, suppliers, factories, etc. the pieces get filled in from either manual entry or automated feeds from other systems, such as PO's or Work Orders. The system has been designed with flexibility to be easily tailored to a retailer's specific needs.

The powerful reporting engine provides users with the ability to drill, pivot and visualize critical data, enabling sourcing executives to see planned and actual business by brand, category, item or basically any hierarchy. Through ad-hoc reports, exception reports, dashboards and custom decks, the insight and trends tracked provides improved decision making.

Enhanced Retail Solutions cloud-based planning system, paired with a customized database and reporting tool creates a dynamic and easy-to-use supplier and production planning and reporting system designed to facilitate business.

Supplier Matrix

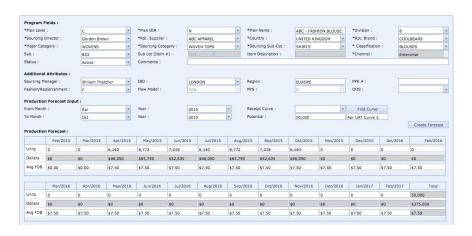
The system keeps track of suppliers and their factories so at any instant the Sourcing team can see what the financial plans are for any given country. The system provides a detailed production plan that can be viewed at various levels (item, brand, category, etc.) and also includes the ability to track reservations, commitments and actualized purchases. The Sourcing organization can create and customize virtually any report to track progress, review plans, and provide vendor recaps & scorecards and executive decks based on each team member's area of responsibility. And because the system is web-based, approved content can be accessed externally by the suppliers, as well.



In addition to supplier/factory and country tables, the system also provides administrative tables for brand, category and user management, as well as your merchandise hierarchy (Division, Sub-Division, etc.) and fiscal calendars. If you need to import reservations or actuals data at Distribution Center Date (DCD) and then convert to ETA for financial reporting, there is an administrative table that lets you set the difference in weeks or months by country and flow model. This allows your Sourcing team to plan at DCD and report financials at ETA.

Creating and Managing Item Plans

A key component of this system is the ability to create and manage plans at both program and item levels. Creating a financial or production plan for an item or program can begin at any time during the development process – from concept to purchase. Sales or shipment/receipt curves based on the history of similar items or categories assist the Sourcing manager in defining the future forecast. The forecasts contain estimated units, dollars and FOB cost, by month.



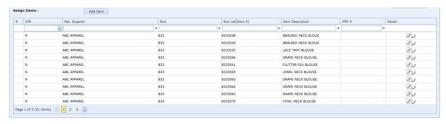
Many of the plan fields are linked to other plan fields to reduce the amount of data entry required to create a forecast. For example, when the user selects the desired Supplier, the system auto-populates the associated Country, as well as the Region, Buying Office location and any other plan fields that are directly tied to that specific supplier. Dropdowns are used throughout to increase the speed of input and decrease data input errors that could lead to inaccurate reporting.

The monthly forecast table auto-calculates the Dollars based on the Units and Avg. FOB cost input for a given month. Space is provided for planning up to 25 months out and the months in the table roll forward with each passing month so that the forecast can continue.

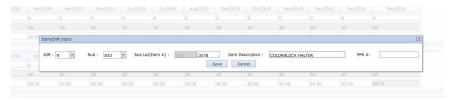
To get your business up and running quickly and reduce the initial workload, the Tool has a "Plan Import" facility to load your existing plans.

Assign Items

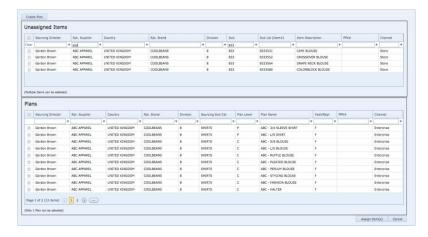
An important feature of the Sourcing & Production Planning Tool is that, in addition to providing a robust planning facility, we've provided the ability to link actual items with plans, giving the Sourcing team a side-by-side view of actuals (reservations, purchase orders and receipts) with the forecast.



Associating real items with plans using the Assign Items table is as easy as adding the item number and description into the Input Item window.



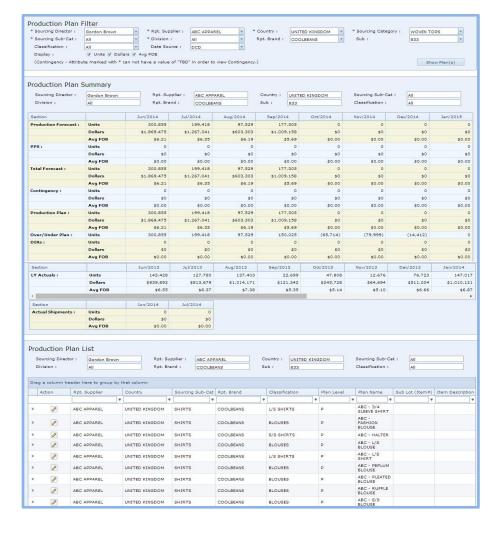
If the item already exists in the system from a previous import of purchase order or shipment data, the system finds the item based on the item number and auto-populates the item description for the user. If the Sourcing/Production manager is creating a forecast for existing items that have not already been associated with a plan, the user can use the Unassigned Items table and filter for the item(s) needing to be assigned.



The Production Plan

The Production Plan serves as the point of integration of forecasts, work orders, real PO's, history and contingency plans. It can be filtered by a multitude of fields to quickly display the summarization the user requires.

Normally, a Production Plan report might suffice, but we've found it extremely helpful to Sourcing managers if they are able to run a production plan for a supplier, country, category, etc., and then make immediate changes to the plans without leaving the Production Plan window.



Below the Production Plan Summary section is a list displaying all of the plans referenced in the Production Plan report. Users can both review and update individual plan forecasts, then see the immediate impact of those changes within the above Summary section.

Also included with the Production Plan functionality is the ability to view both forecasts and actuals using either DCD or ETA timing. Because DCD timing can lead ETA by up to 60 days, the Production Plan window displays the past 2 months so that the manager can see the forecasts for recent months along with the future forecasts.

In conjunction with Production Plan reporting, some retailers need to "lock" all forecasts to provide a snapshot of the sourcing business for financial reporting. This tool provides locking functionality, to save off a snapshot of all forecasts on a selected date, as well as a calendar for defining those key "lock" dates. Future "locks" can be preset, and the system will execute the lock automatically on the predefined date.

The "Previous Lock" plan information is displayed in Production Plan Summary. Managers can access the history from past "locks" in reporting.

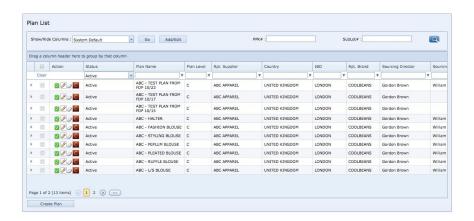
Receipt Curves

Using history (actual receipts) and seasonality, this function aids the user in calculating monthly inventory needs and significantly reduces the time it takes to build financial plans. Using algorithms, the system can estimate receipts for items for future periods even on limited history.



Plan List

The Plan List window allows the users to easily access their plans for update or review.



By default, the Plan List table displays columns associated with all of the plan attributes, but the view can be customized by the user to display only the columns that they use, in the order (left-to-right) that best suits their business needs. Additionally, the user can have as many custom views as desired.

The Plan List also gives users the ability to search for specific product package (specification) numbers (PPK#) and item numbers within their plans so they can easily and quickly find plans containing these records for review or update.

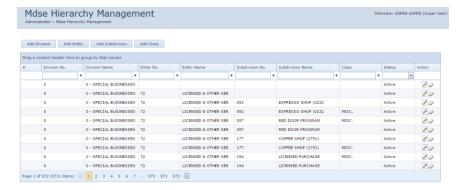
The system's ease of use is best exemplified by the icons in the "Action" column and filter/search boxes above each column field. From one screen the user can get quick access to the information they need and take the required action. In the Plan List, the manager can edit, inactivate and delete plans.

Administrative Functions

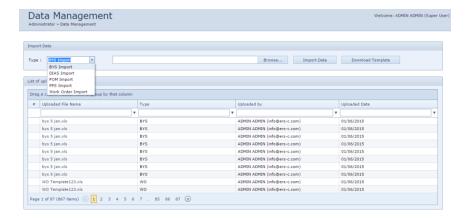
The key ingredient to optimizing a process is reducing the time it takes to find and manipulate data. Both the front and database back end structure of the Sourcing & Production Planning Tool provides an efficient means to access the key data points in a way spreadsheet-based solutions never can. Users can search, filter, add and edit data quickly and efficiently. The administrative functions of the system allow users with the appropriate permissions to manage the following areas:

- Brand Management
- Category Management
- Control Office Management
- Country Management
- Data Management
- Data Reassignment

- DCD/ETA Date Management
- Fiscal Calendar Management
- Locking Dates Management
- Mdse Hierarchy Management
- Supplier Management
- User Management

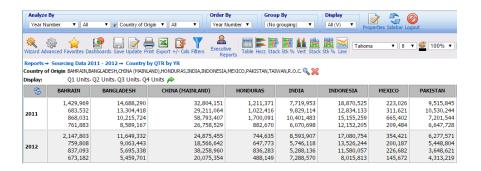


Flexibility is key- we match your merchandise hierarchy in the system.



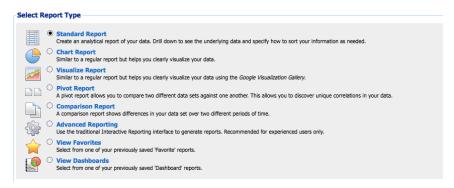
Dashboards & Reporting

The easy-to-use planning functionality of the system helps to create a base of sophisticated reporting data that the sourcing executives and managers can use to create strategic reports. These reports provide a tangible view of their direct sourcing business, across months and years, from the major category down to the Supplier/Factory level.



Some of the key reports the system allows users to create and utilize include:

- Total Business (\$) by Major Category, including Last Year/This Year (LY/TY) plan and actuals comparison
- Total Business Unit Cost Average (\$) by Major Category, including LY/TY plan and actuals comparison
- Total Business (\$) by Supplier Rank, including LY/TY plan and actuals comparison
- Total Business (\$) by Country, including LY/TY plan and actuals comparison
- Business (\$) by Supplier Rank for each Major Category, including LY/TY plan and actuals comparison
- Top 10 Suppliers' Business (\$), including LY/TY plan and actuals comparison



Additionally, users can create dashboards of their favorite reports, share reports, and even have reports sent automatically to their email inbox based on the timing of their choice.

Supplier Name	Feb Units	Mar Units	Apr Units	Q1 Units	Q1 Avg FOB
EPIC	1,147,039	828,377	674,356	2,649,772	\$6.93
MUS'	817,929	361,236	625,858	1,805,023	\$7.43
M/S	526,167	375,202	363,492	1,264,861	\$3.69
PEAR	699,204	588,496	537,938	1,825,638	\$4.65
BEXI	686,874	190,663	225,551	1,103,088	\$6.60
SHAF	426,838	144,345	92,658	663,841	\$4.64
IT SP	422,774	361,237	144,179	928,190	\$7.71
SHAD	193,738	36,180	0	229,918	\$4.54
DELT	315,073	117,208	101,666	533,947	\$4.06
OPEX	68,217	20,843	48,533	137,593	\$7.04
BRILI	22,611	0	0	22,611	\$9.16
МВМ ·	156,336	11,186	135,089	302,611	\$7.29
SG CC	61,137	33,689	32,523	127,349	\$11.69



Conclusion

Utilizing production forecasting as part of a comprehensive sourcing strategy helps a Retailer more accurately estimate future production capacity needs, manage key Supplier relationships, create what-if scenarios to prepare for shifts in market trends and develop "plan B" strategies to react to production issues, such as geo-political unrest or labor strikes, weather-related or environmental disasters, factory fires, etc. Additionally, understanding the Retailer's anticipated production needs enables Suppliers to more efficiently plan production resources, which can be returned as a benefit to the Retailer in lower cost of goods, thereby improving the Retailer's margins.

Even though Microsoft Excel provides users with an abundance of custom options for creating, tracking and reporting data, it has many process shortfalls when it comes to standardization, data integrity, data basing and linking tables for complex reporting. A planning process constructed on a platform of spreadsheets and decentralized data management may initially save an organization time and money, but the limitations eventually encountered only serve to impede desired progress by cultivating a climate of inefficiency and frustration.

The system enables the Retailer to develop forecasts at multiple levels (Category, Supplier, Factory, Country and Item) using either or both a "top-down" and a "bottom-up" approach. Quick, powerful and flexible reporting provides the key business intelligence to make multi-year decisions on how and where to grow its private brand production business.



Leave the binders behind! Now you can have quick and easy access to all your plans and data accessible 24/7 via the web.



About Enhanced Retail Solutions

For over 20 years ERS has provided Retailers, Manufacturers, distributors, brands and Licensors revolutionary tools to help them make more profitable decisions. Our software integrates multiple points of data on one platform that arms the user with actionable information to make the confident inventory and merchandising decisions which lead to improved sales, profit and efficiency.

Our mission is to be the leader in gathering, managing and interpreting retail data with the aim of providing our customers with a competitive advantage. We do this by incorporating state of the art technology with customized consulting services. Unlike many large consulting firms who do more "recommending", we laser focus on taking action- and provide the tools to do so.

ERS's arsenal contains:

- Cost effective customized, consultant delivered reports or do-ityourself interactive reporting platform for Retailers and their Vendors.
- Interactive Dashboards that pinpoint inventory opportunities, define priorities and export worksheets for the user to take action.
- A Best Practices Toolkit including Demographics, Store Rankings, Inventory to Sales Ratios, Turnover, Store Execution, Lost Sales Calculators, Opportunities and Liabilities and more.
- A multitude of Retail Store Replenishment/Allocation tools, including automated Vendor Managed Inventory.
- Demand Planning and Production Planning for both Retail and wholesale.
- E-commerce traffic tracking which tests email marketing, social media and web promotion efforts.
- Hands on expertise- from customizing reports to creating and executing new processes across the organization.
- Sourcing & Production Planning Tool that tracks, plans and ranks direct suppliers, creates and manages item plans and long term strategic planning by country and product category.

ERS was founded by James Lewis, a former Buyer at one of the Nation's largest retail chains- JC Penney. His main experience lies in Home Furnishings, Men's and Children's Apparel and Accessories. Ready to merge his Retail know-how with advanced analytics, he formed the Company in 2002. Jim has been featured in several articles in Playthings Magazine, Apparel Magazine and LDB Interior Textiles Magazine and has been quoted as an expert in many general interest publications such as The Washington Times.

Key customers include JC Penney Private Brands, Inc., Turning Point Brands, iRobot, Delonghi, Delta Galil, Miraclesuit, Coravin, Paris Accessories, Weatherproof, Britannica Home Fashions, Masterpieces Puzzle Company, and Nespresso just to name a few.



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