



Proactive planning: How Reckitt unlocked the power of Enterprise Scheduling with Kinaxis

Key objectives

- Seamlessly integrate planning and scheduling functions on a single, end-to-end platform
- Attain real-time supply chain visibility
- Implement scenario planning

Industry:

Fast-moving
consumer goods

Geographies:

Americas, Europe,
Africa, and Asia Pacific

Employees:

40,000+

Revenue:

£1.4 Billion

Reckitt is a multinational consumer goods company headquartered in Slough, United Kingdom. The company manufactures health, hygiene, and nutrition products, selling around 30 million products daily. With offices and operations spanning six continents and over 30 countries, Reckitt has a truly global footprint.

Planning while in a constant state of flux

Reckitt operates in the highly volatile market of fast-moving consumer goods. Last-minute demand changes, promotional shifts, and material shortages create a challenging environment for production schedulers. They need to be expert firefighters, constantly reshuffling production plans to accommodate an ever-changing reality which leads to highly inefficient and costly operations where OEEs and other KPIs were negatively impacted.

Historically, scheduling at Reckitt was a siloed function. Planners operated separately from schedulers, creating weekly plans, and then “throwing them over the wall” as Vivek Bhat, Global Process and Technology Director E2E Supply Planning & Analytics, explains it,



Results:

Eight

production facilities
successfully implemented

Reduced

changeover time

Improved

Overall Equipment
Effectiveness (OEE)

Optimized

inventory due to better
alignment with demand

leaving their scheduler counterparts to make it work. As a result, he says, “Plans weren’t agile, and schedules weren’t strategic.”

Reckitt wanted to “break down the wall” between scheduling and planning and integrate the former into the planning process. “We were looking for end-to-end visibility,” Vivek says. “So, we could have a single system from demand signal to production line sequence.”

Finding the right technology and partner to realize their vision

Reckitt had already implemented demand and supply planning in Kinaxis Maestro. So, when looking for a unified platform, it made sense to work with the company Vivek describes as “a leader in concurrent planning technology.”

Reckitt partnered with Kinaxis to implement Enterprise Scheduling which allows them to provide the most feasible schedule to the shop floor, while considering materials, constraints, priorities, and business objectives. With Maestro, scheduling and planning are on the same platform, meaning the system leverages single-source-of-truth data, common logic and approaches, and seamless scenario planning capabilities. Having planning and scheduling in sync also provides transparency from raw materials to the finished product.

Going from reactive to strategic planning

According to Vivek, Enterprise Scheduling has already created tangible business value. “With Maestro Enterprise Scheduling, our schedulers are spending less time manually building schedules, and more time analyzing scenarios and making strategic decisions,” he reports. “Because we have more stable, realistic schedules, our overall equipment effectiveness has improved. We have more efficient production transitions, which minimizes downtime between products.”



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On the road to continuous improvement

Enterprise Scheduling is now live in eight factories, and the company is already seeing noticeable improvements. The solution significantly enhanced end-to-end visibility with complete oversight from demand signal to production line. Reduced changeover time enabled more efficient





production transitions and minimized downtime between products. More stable and realistic schedules resulted in improved OEE and better alignment with demand helped to optimize inventory.

Reckitt is preparing to go live in five more facilities, including its largest and most complex factory. As it continues to implement integrated planning, Vivek expects to reap even more benefits in terms of inventory optimization and capacity planning. “For us, this is not a one-time project, but a continuous improvement journey to build a more resilient, agile supply chain for the future,” he says.

He cites the company’s determination to break down the barrier between scheduling and planning, its resilience, and its selection of the right partner as vital steps on that journey. “The collaboration and willingness to co-innovate with Kinaxis were critical to our success,” he concludes.

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