



Smart, Sustainable, and Scalable

How CDF Modernized Manufacturing with IFS



The manufacturing industry is in the midst of a transformation, driven by the need for smarter, faster, and more sustainable operations. Embracing this paradigm shift is CDF Corporation, a manufacturer that has reimagined its approach to productivity by seamlessly integrating robotics, workforce engagement tools, and cutting-edge technology from IFS. By deploying much of the IFS ecosystem including IFS Cloud, Ultimo and IFS Connected Worker powered by Poka, CDF has not only optimized its processes but also empowered its workforce to thrive in an increasingly automated landscape.

A Pioneer in Manufacturing Evolution

CDF Corporation specializes in "mindful packaging," producing environmentally responsible products ranging from baby food pouches to 250-gallon ocean shipping containers. The company operates across multiple sites and has cultivated expertise in diverse manufacturing processes such as vacuum forming, injection molding, and heat sealing.

CDF's relationship with IFS began back in 2007, when the company transitioned from an outdated Glovia system to IFS Applications. Determined not to fall behind on technological advancements, CDF committed to upgrading its IFS system every three years. This proactive approach led the company through several versions including IFS Applications 7, 8, 9, and 10, before migrating to IFS Cloud in 2023. The move to the cloud was not merely a technological upgrade but a strategic decision to embrace the future of manufacturing, harnessing the power of artificial intelligence, automation, and real-time data insights.

The Role of Robotics in CDF's Transformation

In 2018, CDF began integrating robotics into its operations. This initiative, inspired by a demonstration at an IFS Labs event, epitomized the company's innovative spirit. CDF collaborated directly with IFS Labs to deploy robots, initially using bespoke code. However, the transition to IFS Cloud enabled the use of Business Process Automation (BPA), streamlining the programming and management of robotic systems. The BPA's intuitive design allowed CDF's internal teams to make adjustments without extensive external support, reducing costs and improving efficiency.

About CDF Corporation

CDF Corporation is a U.S.-based manufacturer specializing in environmentally responsible "mindful packaging" solutions. Their products range from baby food pouches to 250-gallon ocean shipping containers. Operating across multiple sites, CDF is known for its expertise in vacuum forming, injection molding, and heat sealing, and its commitment to innovation and sustainable manufacturing practices.



The introduction of physical robots revolutionized tasks such as material handling, reducing manual labor and enhancing safety. Simultaneously, software-based robotic process automation (RPA) enhanced back-office functions like accounts payable, achieving an impressive 80% labor saving. These advancements underscored CDF's commitment to innovation and its ability to adapt cutting-edge technologies to practical applications.

Enhancing Workforce Engagement, Powered by IFS Connected Worker

While robotics played a pivotal role in reducing labor dependency, CDF recognized the importance of fostering a motivated and skilled workforce. Enter IFS's Connected Worker platform that seamlessly integrates to IFS Cloud, powered by Poka. The IFS Connected Worker platform's core features of communication, knowledge management, and issue tracking have redefined how CDF's employees interact with manufacturing systems.

IFS Connected Worker has a "factory feed," akin to a social media platform for the shop floor, facilitating real-time communication and issue reporting. Maintenance alerts, shift changes, and quality updates are streamlined, enhancing operational transparency. Moreover, the platform's training modules, featuring video snippets and interactive quizzes, empower workers to upskill and advance their careers. By offering a clear progression path, CDF has successfully addressed the growing demand from younger employees for career development opportunities.

IFS Training and the Community Advantage

Training and continuous learning are integral to CDF's success. The company has embraced IFS training modules to upskill its workforce and ensure seamless adoption of new technologies. The availability of comprehensive, cost-effective training modules has democratized knowledge, enabling employees at all levels to contribute effectively.

Additionally, CDF has benefited from the IFS Community, an active forum for sharing insights and resolving technical challenges. The community's collaborative ethos has accelerated problem-solving and fostered a sense of shared purpose among IFS users.



Optimizing Asset Management with Ultimo

To further enhance its operational efficiency, CDF Corporation implemented Ultimo, a cloud-based Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) solution by Ultimo, an IFS company. IFS Ultimo provides CDF with comprehensive tools for managing maintenance activities, ensuring health and safety compliance, and improving cross-departmental collaboration. The software's user-friendly interface and rapid deployment capabilities have enabled CDF to gain real-time insights into asset performance, streamline maintenance workflows, and reduce downtime. By integrating IFS Ultimo with existing systems, CDF has achieved a more proactive approach to asset management, aligning with its commitment to innovation and sustainability.

The Evergreen Upgrade Process: A New Paradigm

One of the most significant benefits of transitioning to IFS Cloud is the Evergreen upgrade process. Unlike traditional three-year upgrade cycles, Evergreen offers continuous, non-disruptive updates. This shift has alleviated the burden of major system overhauls, allowing CDF to focus on strategic initiatives rather than routine maintenance. For employees, it means fewer holiday disruptions, a testament to IFS' commitment to enhancing work-life balance for its clients.

The Future of Manufacturing

CDF's journey with IFS Cloud illustrates the transformative power of integrating workforce and robotics. By using tools like IFS Connected Worker and BPA, the company has enhanced productivity, reduced costs, and created a more engaged workforce. Moreover, its proactive approach to training and community engagement ensures that CDF remains at the forefront of manufacturing innovation.

As CDF continues to explore AI-driven scheduling and preventive maintenance, it personifies a forward-thinking organization ready to meet the challenges of modern manufacturing. The collaboration with IFS, characterized by a shared vision for innovation and customer-centricity, underscores the potential of technology to drive meaningful change.

In the words of CDF's CIO, Alex Ivkovic, "The connected worker is the future of manufacturing." Indeed, businesses that embrace this philosophy, supported by robust platforms like IFS Cloud, are poised to lead the industry into a new era of productivity and sustainability.

Benefits seen using IFS

- Automation saved 80% labor in accounts payable, boosting operational efficiency dramatically.
- IFS Connected Worker platform increased engagement with real-time communication and digital training tools.
- IFS training modules upskilled employees, enabling faster tech adoption and broader workforce contribution.
- Evergreen upgrades eliminated downtime, avoiding disruptive overhauls and improving work-life balance.

Find out more

For further information, contact your local IFS office or visit ifs.com

