

## DRAKE EXTRUSION

An iDashboards Case Study

“Use of the dashboards has allowed us to identify adverse trends quickly and implement corrective actions to address the problems. This has allowed us to improve efficiency within the plant and drive incremental improvement in overall performance.

—Ray Snell, IS Director

## Improving Plant Efficiencies and Overall Performance with the Daily use of Dashboards

### CUSTOMER

Since its inception in 1995, Drake Extrusion Inc has become a leading manufacturer and distributor of polypropylene fiber within North America. Along with its sister companies in the UK and Austria, Drake Extrusion operates as a wholly owned subsidiary of the International Fibres Group (IFG). Their primary market sectors include automotive textiles, floor coverings and home furnishings. With their state-of-the-art, in-house color lab, they can surpass customer needs by custom matching any fiber colors.

### CHALLENGE

As Drake Extrusions' business increased, their data increased, but without a dashboard solution it was difficult to summarize and visualize their data. When seeking dashboard software, their main objective was to have the ability to easily measure performance against key goals. Drake Extrusion also needed a system that was easy to deploy, required minimal training overhead and could integrate effortlessly with their existing IT skill set.

### SOLUTION & IMPLEMENTATION

Drake Extrusion explored several solutions, and although they were targeted towards their main business platform of IBM i, they decided to go with iDashboards Enterprise Edition. This decision was based on iDashboards' ease of implementation, management and ease of use. With iDashboards, Drake Extrusion was able to quickly demonstrate the power of the product with real life solutions in real-time. With implementation of the iDashboards, it was possible to combine all their data from their current DB2 database and utilize iDashboards' interactive visual intelligence to gain a better view of their data.

### RESULTS

Drake Extrusion employees ranging from staff to VP-level use iDashboards software on a daily basis to measure waste and efficiency within the plant as well as monitor key performance indicators such as product characteristics, color and defect rates. With the help of iDashboards, Drake Extrusion is now able to identify adverse trends in real-time and take corrective actions accordingly. Since the implementation of iDashboards, Drake Extrusion has seen approximately a 50% volume reduction in the waste levels of their plant with corresponding increases in product runnability, quality and on shade performance.