

# Forecasting and Master Production Scheduling

Forecasting and Master Production Scheduling (MPS) in Vantage are designed to assist manufacturers with both day-to-day production control and long range planning and decision making. Forecasting and MPS support all manufacturing strategies, as well as those manufacturers who operate multiple, mixed-mode strategies simultaneously. Forecasts can be generated from multiple historical sources (e.g., sales, invoice, and inventory usage history).

**MANUAL FORECAST ENTRY**

Manually enter forecasts for companies, plants, customers, dates, and parts. Cut-and-paste from other applications into the forecast system.

**FORECAST EXPORT**

Export historical information to third-party applications for the calculation of forecasts.

**FORECAST IMPORT**

Import forecasts from other applications or customers. Import options allow forecasts to be broken down by part, customer, plant, date, and company. This import can be additive, update the existing forecast or a complete clear and re-load.

**HISTORICAL FORECAST SOURCES**

Use Vantage Business Intelligence (VBI) to determine forecast history from multiple sources. This allows companies to choose the most accurate source of historical data. Different products can use different historical data sources to determine forecast history. Sample data sources are quotations, orders, bookings, shipments, payments, and inventory or job usage.

**FORECAST METHODS**

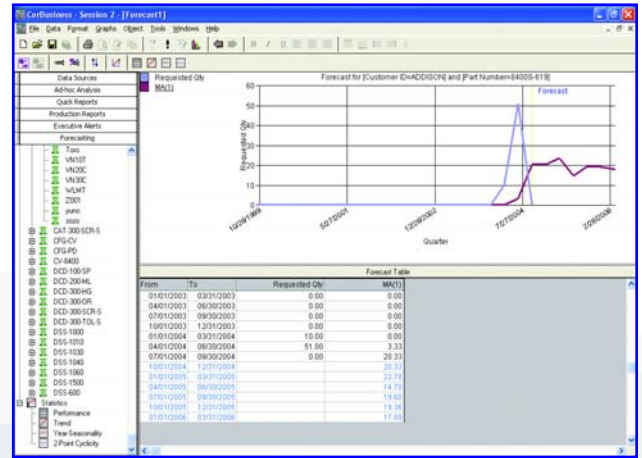
VBI offers a number of forecasting methods:

**Focus:** A simulation technique where forecasts from the past are simulated, using several simple or statistical algorithms, and then compared to what really happened in the past. Six different strategies are available:

- Past periods this year
- Past periods last year
- Growth over last year
- Moving averages
- Straight line
- Exponential smoothing

**Statistical:** A method which uses mathematical algorithms to fit curves to the historical time series. Three different strategies are available in the strategies dialog box when you choose statistical:

- Moving averages
- Straight line
- Exponential



Display a forecast by customer and part number with information imported from a variety of sources.

**FORECAST BUCKETS**

Bucket forecasts in any way: daily, weekly, monthly, yearly, etc.

**FORECAST ANALYSIS**

Forecast any number of variables (e.g., revenue) rather than just forecasting product units. Forecasting allows any number of tiers to be forecast and analyzed (e.g., forecasting product units by company, state, city, and customer).

**INTER-COMPANY TRADING**

Dynamically accept forecasts from other companies within the enterprise. This allows companies to give visibility to the supply company of future demand without needing to raise a firm inter-company order.

**MPS ENTRY**

Manually enter or cut-and-paste MPS from other applications.

**FORECAST TO MPS**

Automatically generate the MPS for forecasting.

**DRIVING CAPACITY AND RAW MATERIAL PROCUREMENT**

Make and alter MPS decisions based on constraints. Both forecasting and MPS can independently drive future demand.

