

Chinatool



CT AUTOMOTIVE

Chinatool, part of the CT Automotive group, was created at the turn of the millennium and is now one of the leading names in the automotive manufacturing industry. They have an expansive and diverse product range comprising of kinetic parts, air vents, upholstery and interior trim parts. Items are largely made using specialist injection mould tooling.

Client:
Chinatool

Industry:
Automotive Manufacturing

Location:
Portsmouth and global

Acora services provided:

- Implementation of Microsoft Dynamics NAV
- Bespoke development
- Training & support
- Migration to Azure

The company is growing, due in part to its innovative nature, the use of high-grade material, fast turn-around times and regular quality checks, all of which are key when providing essential parts to customers such as Ford, Audi, Seat, Volkswagen and Tesla.

Challenges

Chinatool is part of a larger group, in which all members were using different systems to manage the businesses. This meant that compiling reports for the Shareholders and Owners was a complicated process. The company needed a robust and integrated solution that could provide rich management information, enabling them to make quick decisions and take advantage of opportunities derived from the data.

The company also experienced a period of rapid growth, and quickly outgrew its original ERP system, Sage. They soon needed added functionality too, such as stock control, in order to efficiently support their business moving forward.

Why Microsoft Dynamics NAV and Acora

Chinatool chose Microsoft Dynamics NAV because it had the basic functionality required by the business, and because it's Microsoft so the system was easy to navigate and understand. Josie Pook, Group Finance Manager comments "We chose NAV because it is a very user friendly

Acora: Case Study Chinatool



system, that our team were able to pick-up really quickly. It had a lot of the functionality our business needed and was cost effective compared against other similar products”.

Microsoft Dynamics NAV was implemented by Acora, who were recommended to Chinatool by a satisfied client. *“We’re confident that Acora will always be as hands on and involved as we need them to be. Our Account Manager is very communicative and we hold regular meetings to discuss ideas, future projects and to get advice, that extra-effort will help us to get the best out of our solution.”* Josie Pook, Group Finance Manager.

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Josie Pook
Group Finance Manager

Business outcomes

Using Microsoft Dynamics NAV has given Chinatool access to an abundant amount of data, which is the same for users in their UK office as well as their international offices. It enables the company to drill into data using dimensions, bringing far more transparency to decision makers. Josie Pook comments *“Microsoft has been well received in the business. Being able to download some key management information at the click of a button saves us a lot of time.”*

This work has highlighted additional functionality in the software that Chinatool can use to their benefit, demonstrating the capability and flexibility of the solution *“there are lots more areas of NAV that we can take advantage of, it’s a constant evolution for us as we grow”.* Josie Pook, Group Finance Manager.

Hosting on Azure

CT Automotive originally used shared servers to host Microsoft Dynamics NAV, however they felt restricted and asked Acora to help them move to Microsoft’s Cloud solution, Azure. *“We wanted to roll Microsoft Dynamics NAV out to our global offices, which we couldn’t achieve on a shared server. We also couldn’t carry out the bespoke work needed, and we didn’t have easy access to our data. So, Acora helped us to move to Azure.”* Josie Pook, Group Finance Manager

“Acora also provided a solution to increase speed and connectivity to our offices in Hong Kong, which means we can access our data there very easily, and give our employees access to the data they need.” Since then, the company has hired a data administrator to analyse and report on the data, providing more business transparency than ever.

Gold Microsoft Partner



Future plans

- The implementation of MobileNAV, to optimise their warehouse processes by introducing barcoding.
- Rolling Microsoft Dynamics NAV out to their offices in China.
- Plans are in place to upgrade Microsoft Dynamics NAV in 2018, starting in the company’s UK offices. This will enable them to leverage the integration capabilities between Microsoft Dynamics NAV and their Office 365 solution.