



The software for measurable success.

PSI PLANNING BOARD

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

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1 PSI – Your Partner

With an annual turnover of €115 million and over 1000 employees PSI is one of the leading German software houses. As a listed corporation on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, and as one of the few independent German software houses, we are a reliable, secure and stable partner for mid-range enterprises.

PSI AG develops individual solutions for the management of large networks (electricity, gas, oil, telecommunications, transport), corporate-wide production management (metals, process, mechanical engineering, automotive, logistics) as well as information management for public authorities and service providers built around an organizations own infrastructure. PSI was founded in 1969 and has more than 30 years world-wide experience in more than 1000 projects.

PSI has had a UK office for over ten years, and has implemented over 50 projects in the UK over this period. This office also deals with all international business outside Germany, Austria and Switzerland. First line support is available from this office.

Software products form the backbone of our offerings. With the

eRP Business Solution PSIPenta

we also offer a comprehensive production planning and order management system with special functionality for the make to order and engineer to order marketplace. This system has been sold to over 400 businesses and incorporates the latest technologies. Built with integration in mind, this system has integration links with the Planning Board and Financial Systems.

2 PSI Planning Board

The PSI Planning Board is a leading-edge solution to production planning and scheduling problems. It combines powerful scheduling functionality with a customisable and easy-to-use interface. This combination means that its adoption in an organisation is well accepted and reduces the need for technical training. Because of its intuitive operation and simple interfaces, implementation timescales for the software are short, typically three to eight weeks long.

2.1 What is the main functionality of the Planning Board?

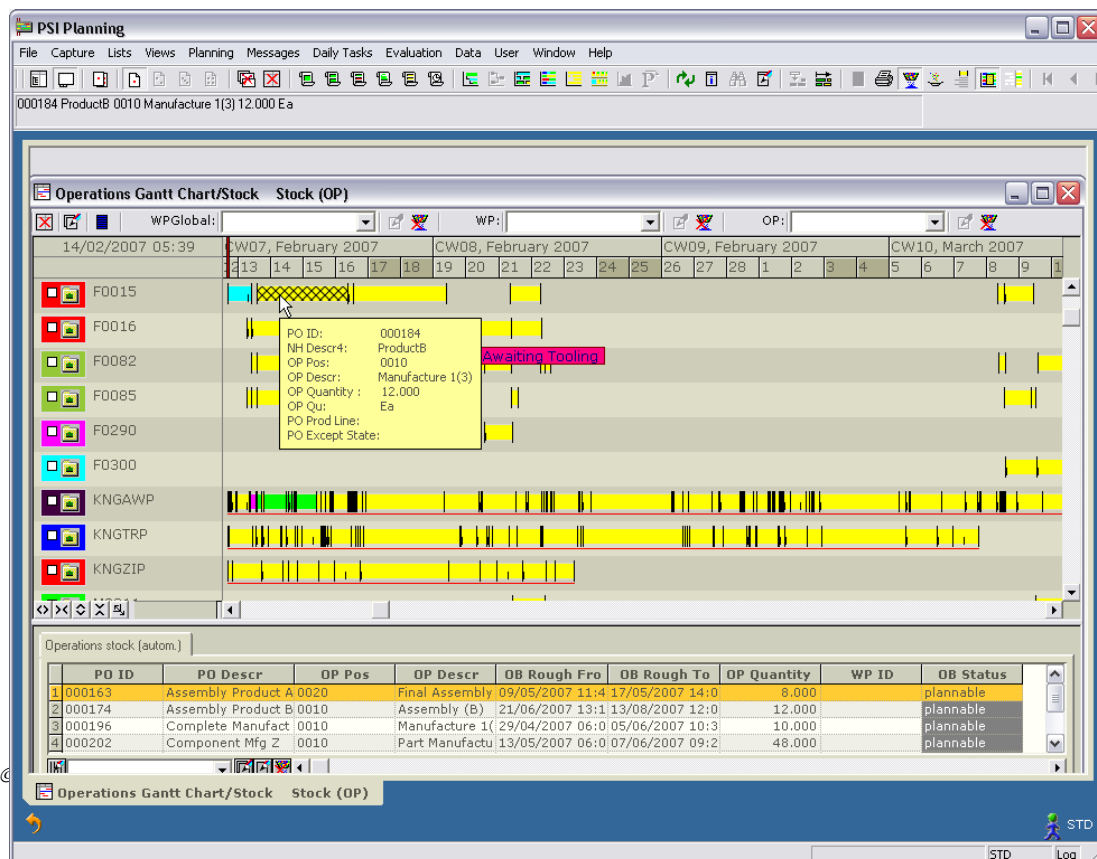
- At its heart, the Planning Board has a powerful finite scheduling engine, which can deal with multiple criteria against workplaces and orders, and ensures that optimal efficiency is achieved. This scheduling engine can be invoked manually or automatically.
- Production orders can be passed to the system through a customisable interface, either through flat ASCII files, or by entering data into database table using ODBC. For advanced ERP implementations, specialised interfaces have been developed for major ERP systems such as SAP.
- These production orders can then be scheduled automatically or manually. For bottleneck planning, a combination of these approaches can be used, where the bottleneck is scheduled manually, and then surrounding operations can be automatically scheduled.
- If necessary, a simple screen can be used at work centres to view work-to-lists and record progress against operations. These are linked directly to the Planning Board database. Alternatively, completions can be keyed in through the planning board directly. Cockpit views are also available (using HTML pages viewed through a web browser) showing the layout and current status of all work centres.
- All data within the system is held on a database. This enables access to the data for reporting purposes, and also enables multi-user updating of the schedule where this is required.
- The system is operated through an intuitive windows interface, using a number of different visualisations of the schedule. Each of these can be customised on a user-by-user basis.
- Gantt charts are available showing the schedule by workplace, by production order, by sales order, by resource, or as a project network. These can be customised by the user online to annotate the chart with any data from the database.
- Shop Floor completions can also be fed from a separate SFDC system through the interface, in order to ensure that an accurate outstanding load is used in the scheduling.
- Detailed screens show relevant data for each operation, work place etc. Again, these can be customised by the user to show only the relevant data he or she is interested in.

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- A flexible calendaring system enables the system to react to differing shift patterns, holidays, and maintenance breaks etc.
- Multiple simulations can be carried out on a copy of the live schedule. At the end of this process, one of the simulations can, if necessary, then be adopted as the live data.
- The user interface is available in a number of languages, including English and German.
- Instead of using 'zoom' buttons on the time scale, the user merely drags the mouse over the required time, and the system redisplay accordingly.
- By using the actualisation key, any backlog is used in the forward schedule calculation. This means that backlog does not have to be explicitly 'managed'.
- The schedule can be displayed down to the nearest minute if required.
- As well as loading workplaces, the system can take other resources into account, eg personnel, tools etc , and can provide additional data for scheduling these.
- Multiple user accounts can be created, each with its own restrictions.

All of this functionality makes the planning board a powerful tool when prioritising a production schedule to give good customer service and efficiency.

Here is a sample screenshot. This shows the work scheduled for groups of work centres in the upper pane, together with a pool of unscheduled operations in the lower pane. Operations from this pool can be scheduled by dragging and dropping onto the appropriate work centre at the desired time. Information for operation is either shown as text against the Gantt chart bars, or as popup information as you point at the bar. As stated, this chart is highly customisable by the user and can show any information from the database.



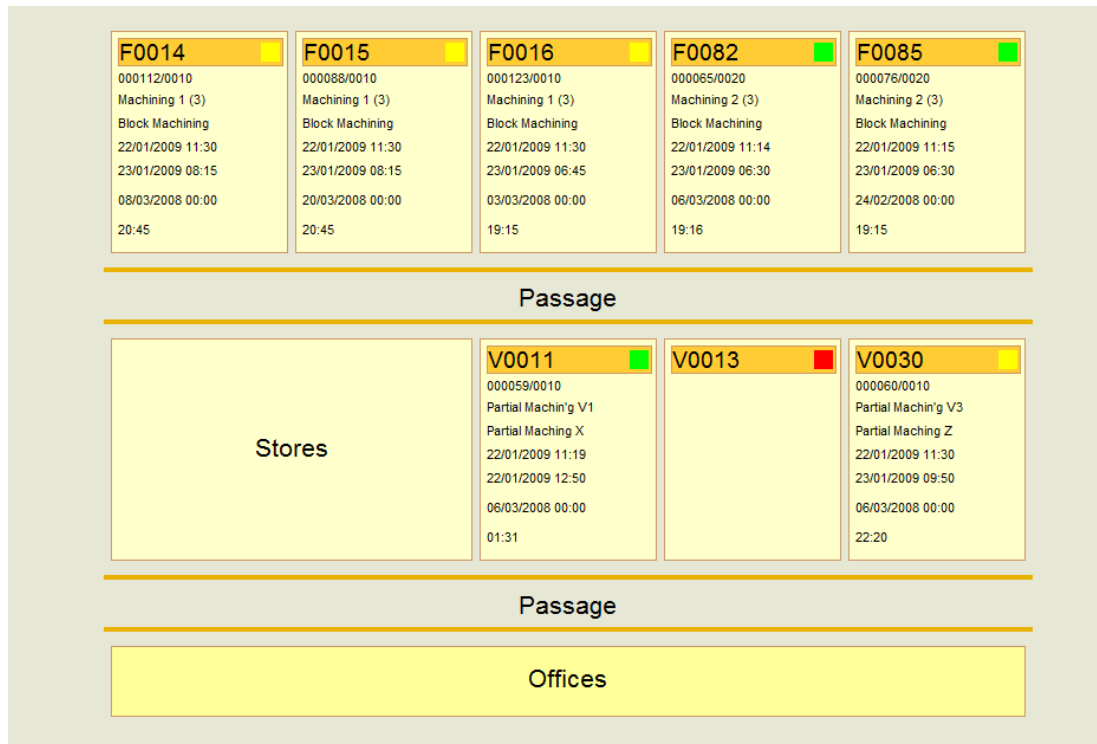
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Other screens show lists of other data in the system, such as operations, works orders, calendars etc. Data on these lists can be simply cut and pasted into spreadsheet software.

The screenshot displays the 'List: Work Orders' window within the PSI Planning application. The window title is 'List: Work Orders' and it contains a table with the following columns: WO ID, WO Quantity, WO, WO Status, WO Rough From, WO Rough To, WO Sched From, and WO Sched To. The table lists 29 work orders with various statuses such as 'planned', 'released', and 'unplanned'. The interface also shows a menu bar (File, Capture, Lists, Views, Planning, Messages, Daily Tasks, Evaluation, Data, User, Window, Help) and a toolbar with various icons. The status bar at the bottom indicates 'STD' and 'Log'.

WO ID	WO Quantity	WO	WO Status	WO Rough From	WO Rough To	WO Sched From	WO Sched To
1	1000151108	172.840 EA	planned	10/02/2007 00:00	10/02/2007 23:59	15/02/2007 15:32	15/02/2007 19:05
2	1000153527	447.260 EA	planned	13/02/2007 00:00	13/02/2007 23:59	21/02/2007 11:38	21/02/2007 19:45
3	1000153625	21.600 EA	planned	09/02/2007 00:00	09/02/2007 23:59	13/02/2007 07:18	13/02/2007 07:50
4	1000153746	53.440 EA	planned	09/02/2007 00:00	09/02/2007 23:59	13/02/2007 12:38	13/02/2007 18:12
5	1000154127	155.600 EA	planned	26/11/2006 00:00	26/11/2006 23:59	12/02/2007 15:38	12/02/2007 18:53
6	1000154184	687.750 EA	planned	05/01/2007 00:00	05/01/2007 23:59	16/02/2007 17:29	20/02/2007 21:58
7	1000155089	531.780 EA	planned	09/02/2007 00:00	09/02/2007 23:59	12/02/2007 16:22	13/02/2007 09:54
8	1000155683	5.320 EA	planned	30/12/2006 00:00	30/12/2006 23:59	12/02/2007 18:53	12/02/2007 19:08
9	1000155743	335.500 EA	planned	01/01/2007 00:00	01/01/2007 23:59	14/02/2007 12:21	14/02/2007 18:36
10	1000155759	12.610 EA	planned	16/02/2007 00:00	16/02/2007 23:59	28/02/2007 10:03	02/03/2007 15:09
11	1000156593	624.240 EA	planned	05/01/2007 00:00	05/01/2007 23:59	15/02/2007 10:22	15/02/2007 21:56
12	1000156604	151.710 EA	released	09/02/2007 00:00	09/02/2007 23:59	14/02/2007 14:37	14/02/2007 14:52
13	1000156605	14.130 EA	planned	09/02/2007 00:00	09/02/2007 23:59	12/02/2007 15:55	12/02/2007 17:09
14	1000157397	221.880 EA	planned	19/02/2007 00:00	19/02/2007 23:59	12/03/2007 11:47	12/03/2007 15:39
15	1000157726	2,023.320 EA	unplanned	13/02/2007 00:00	13/02/2007 23:59		
16	1000158588	139.360 EA	planned	10/02/2007 00:00	10/02/2007 23:59	15/02/2007 09:08	15/02/2007 12:07
17	1000158950	311.510 EA	planned	12/02/2007 00:00	12/02/2007 23:59	21/02/2007 06:51	21/02/2007 12:42
18	1000159144	995.650 EA	planned	12/02/2007 00:00	12/02/2007 23:59	22/02/2007 07:38	23/02/2007 09:24
19	1000159161	455.240 EA	planned	01/01/2007 00:00	01/01/2007 23:59	14/02/2007 18:36	15/02/2007 10:22
20	1000159498	1,126.500 EA	unplanned	31/12/2006 00:00	31/12/2006 23:59		
21	1000159513	640.620 EA	planned	06/01/2007 00:00	06/01/2007 23:59	20/02/2007 21:58	21/02/2007 17:19
22	1000159525	112.000 EA	planned	16/02/2007 00:00	16/02/2007 23:59	22/02/2007 14:34	01/03/2007 09:18
23	1000159644	653.030 EA	planned	05/01/2007 00:00	05/01/2007 23:59	15/02/2007 21:56	16/02/2007 17:29
24	1000159909	198.100 EA	planned	10/02/2007 00:00	10/02/2007 23:59	13/02/2007 17:27	13/02/2007 21:26
25	1000160303	8.000 EA	planned	01/01/2007 00:00	01/01/2007 23:59	14/02/2007 12:03	14/02/2007 12:21
26	1000160327	205.270 EA	planned	31/12/2006 00:00	31/12/2006 23:59	14/02/2007 07:58	14/02/2007 12:03
27	1000160410	193.600 EA	planned	16/02/2007 00:00	16/02/2007 23:59	26/02/2007 15:09	26/02/2007 19:03
28	1000160646	85.800 EA	released	09/02/2007 00:00	09/02/2007 23:59	14/02/2007 10:29	14/02/2007 12:35
29	1000160764	9.450 EA	planned	11/02/2007 00:00	11/02/2007 23:59	16/02/2007 09:39	16/02/2007 09:58

Here is the 'cockpit view' showing the factory layout and operations currently in progress as an html page. These are easily customisable by the end-user to reflect the layout and data required.



2.2 What else do I need apart from the software?

The software runs on Windows PC's, and can hold its data in either Microsoft SQL server database or an Oracle Database (both free). Other PC's on the network can be used to view the current plan, or can also carry out planning tasks. Each user has a separate Logon and can have their own view of the data, and can be assigned the tasks they are allowed to carry out.

2.3 What benefits can I expect from using the Planning Board?

- Better communication of the Production Plan
- Reduced time to produce a viable Production Plan
- Reduced penalties for late delivery.
- Reduced overtime requirements
- Immediate visibility of workcentre status and work-to-lists
- Easy capture of workcentre progress
- Immediate visibility of the effect of machine breakdowns on customer deliveries
- Ability to answer 'what-if' questions with high degree of confidence

3 PSI Service portfolio

PSI service is a core component of the offering. Speed of implementation, quality consultants, readily accessible training and subsequent support are all key elements of the solution offered by PSI.

3.1 Consulting

Our consultants have a substantial knowledge of industry, as well as the PSI applications and technologies. This means that they can work effectively with management to match the software to business processes, and enable maximum benefit from the software. As usual, there are several ways of implementing software, and our consultants work with you to find the best way. The key to success in an implementation is a good project methodology and a good project team. PSI's SPRINT methodology ensures the most effective implementation with the minimum expenditure.

3.2 Customising

PSI's systems have been designed from the outset to require minimal customisation and configuration to ensure that the customer derives maximum benefit from the system as quickly and as inexpensively as is possible. Where industry or customer-specific modifications are necessary, these can be easily incorporated into systems using the most appropriate tool. The open architecture of systems, including the use of Business Objects, relational databases, and Microsoft COM ensures that these modifications can be completed at a much lower cost, and can sometimes be carried out by the customer's own staff. Use of industry-standard tools for forms creation, reporting and OLAP analysis ensure that costs in this area are minimised.

3.3 Support

The continuous development of PSI's products and our quality standards (ISO9002) ensure that systems are reliable, functional and up-to-date. Your support agreement covers the times when you need help. It gives you rights to software updates (which may take the form of individual patches or entire releases) and 'hotline' support. This is provided from our two support centres, one in Germany, and one in the UK (for international clients). We hope to answer simple questions quickly, but more complex questions are assigned and actively managed using our support systems, which also enable logging of issues over the Internet.

3.4 Training

To guarantee a fast and successful introduction of PSI software in your enterprise, we offer you a variety of training options.

Standard training is regularly offered in the UK. We also offer all seminars as In-house courses (on-site at the customer).