



Case study:
**Design Ready
Controls**

DESIGN
READY
CONTROLS

Design Ready Controls

Design Ready Controls is a control panel manufacturer that designs and builds bespoke control panels for customers across multiple industries. Their headquarters and central production facility are in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.





The challenge

Design Ready Controls designs and assembles control panels to their customers' exact specifications. As each panel has a different configuration, it requires a different bill of materials, which contains a different set of components – and this presented a challenge.

As the company kept growing, its director of materials, Troy Graham, was finding it more and more difficult to determine accurate forecasts for every component. With 10,000 active part numbers, it was impossible to manually keep track of individual stock levels and ensure that future inventory needs could be met.

Manually managing the inventory was becoming overwhelming. Troy would run spreadsheets to calculate the quantities required for each part and then hope that the forecast would remain as accurate as possible until the next time it was done.

This led to a drop in shop floor efficiency. When components were missing, the assembly of panels would either stop or the assemblers would attempt to build around the missing parts. Design Ready Controls was seeing a negative impact on their on-time delivery and quality. As the business continued to grow, the need for a long-term solution became more evident.

“Most of the panels that we produce have a different configuration and, therefore, a different bill of materials. So from a planning perspective, that makes it infinitely more challenging to support what our customers’ expectations are because, based on the design, each one of them can be very different.”

Troy Graham, Director of Materials





The solution

Design Ready Controls had already embraced automation in other business areas, such as their patented software, Automated Panel Expert (APE®), an engineering tool that automates documentation creation and design for control panels. However, their processes needed even more digitalisation to keep up with demand.

*"We're always open to implementing automation wherever we can see the value for it. Our first experience with automation was with engineering, then we went paperless, and now we're automating equipment on the production floor. It's funny; **ten years ago, there was not a thought around automating inventory management.** Now, due to our growth and where we are, we realise **how important material flow is and including automation for it,**"* said Kevin Skau, Chief Operating Officer.

Design Ready Controls chose EazyStock to keep up with forecasting their increasing demand, calculate reorder points and quantities, and ensure all the right SKUs were in stock as needed.

The results



The results

Since adding EazyStock in 2018, Design Ready Controls has had much more control over its inventory management.

The complete visibility that EazyStock brings allows the team to monitor and control their inventory for both their current and upcoming orders.

As Design Ready Controls grows, reliable inventory management has become increasingly important. With EazyStock in place, components are no longer missing as control panel orders come in.

Instead of chasing down parts, Design Ready Controls now has more time to focus on product development for their clients

and growing their customer base.

"Having EazyStock's value-add as part of our business has really given us more confidence in terms of how we approach a new customer project or a new product launch. We're constantly monitoring our levels of inventory, and we're planning further out, looking for potential problems. Our shop floor is getting stronger and stronger, and we're no longer having to work around missing components," concluded Kevin.

**“EazyStock has made my life
a lot easier. Instead of
manually having to
calculate order points, it’s
doing the calculations for
me in the background.”**

Andrew Forsberg
Materials Manager





Find out more

To find out how EazyStock can help your business, get in touch.

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