Hitachi JP1 Job Management Solution brings stability to production schedule, enhances J-SOX compliance and boosts IT efficiency.

A market leader in the manufacture of digital cameras, lenses and components, Nikon (Thailand) uses Hitachi JP1/AJS2 to manage jobs from its mission-critical applications. The solution has enabled the company to mesh its applications, synchronise production activities, comply with compliance mandates, and boost efficiency in the IT department.

Nikon (Thailand) is well-known for its precision manufacturing expertise. Things were not as smooth when it came to scheduling and managing IT jobs that are critical to its core day-to-day production operations. Jobs were scheduled throughout the day on a daily basis and in a manual manner, with the extent of scheduling depending on whether jobs scheduled to run the day before or earlier the same day executed properly or not.

Likewise, job monitoring was done manually. Given the dynamic nature and the scale of Nikon (Thailand) shopfloor operations, with constant adjustments to the number and size of production runs, this meant that at least one IT staff member had to be on-site till about 9 pm each day to make sure that jobs executed properly in time and in the correct sequence, failing which the next day’s jobs and production activities would be affected. Still, there was no guarantee that the jobs scheduled to start after the IT staff member had left would run properly, so for the IT department each new day would start with a frantic scramble to check that they did run as planned.

Hitachi JP1/AJS2 was implemented at Nikon (Thailand) by a joint Hitachi Asia-MAT team. The implementation went very smoothly, recalled Mr. Jeerasak, and the team were quick and adept at answering questions from Nikon (Thailand)’s own IT team, resolving initial hiccups, and so on, he added.

Now, with Hitachi JP1/AJS2 in full operation, the issues that Nikon (Thailand) had with job management have become a thing of the past.

“With Hitachi JP1/AJS2, we are able to centrally define, schedule and execute all jobs. The level of automation is very high and we have clear visibility of job status and workflow. There is now tighter meshing of our mission-critical applications and timelier synchronisation of our production activities, and this has resulted in a more stable production schedule,” said Mr. Jeerasak.

Besides Hitachi JP1/AJS2, Nikon (Thailand) evaluated several other solutions but found these did not measure up to the Hitachi solution in terms of features, level of automation and ease of use. “The top ranking of the Hitachi JP1 system management suite in Japan and other markets also tilted the decision in favour of Hitachi JP1/AJS2, as did the excellent working relationship between Hitachi Asia and MAT,” said Jeerasak Phakhong, Assistant Manager, System & Planning Department, Nikon (Thailand).

Smooth Implementation

Hitachi JP1/AJS2 is a solution that allows for the central management of large volumes of IT jobs. The tool is adept at answering questions from Nikon (Thailand)’s own IT team, resolving initial hiccups, and so on, he added.

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J-SOX Compliance

The use of Hitachi JP1/AJS2 has also enhanced Nikon (Thailand)’s ability to comply with Japan’s Financial Instruments Exchange Law (commonly referred to as J-SOX), which requires management to provide an assessment of its internal control over its financial reporting and obtain an auditor’s opinion on management’s assessment.

Going forward, Nikon (Thailand) plans to use Hitachi JP1/AJS2 to run jobs from applications other than those currently supported. The company is looking at Hitachi JP1 desktop management solutions – JP1 Client Security Control and JP1/Network Monitor – with the aim of enhancing the security of its networked client PCs.

J-SOX enables organisations to leverage the solution for compliance, ensuring that the company is meeting the demands of regulatory bodies and maintaining the highest level of accountability and transparency. The solution is designed to help organisations streamline their IT operations, ensuring that all processes are in line with regulatory requirements and best practices.

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Nikon (Thailand) Co. Ltd.

About Nikon (Thailand) Co. Ltd.

Established in 1990, Nikon (Thailand) Co. Ltd. is a leading manufacturer of DSLR cameras, lenses and camera components. Located in Ayuttaya Province, it employs about 8,000 workers and has a capacity of 6 million cameras, lenses and camera components per year. The company has a strong presence in the ASEAN region, with sales in countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam and India.

The company is committed to providing high-quality products and services, and has been recognized for its dedication to innovation and excellence. It is a member of the Nikon Group, which is a global leader in the manufacturing of high-performance optical equipment and devices.

Jeerasak Phakhong

Assistant Manager

System & Planning Department
**Hitachi JP1 Job Management Solution**

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A market leader in the manufacture of digital cameras, lenses and components, Nikon (Thailand) uses Hitachi JP1/AJS2 to manage jobs from its mission-critical applications. The solution has enabled the company to mesh its applications, synchronise production activities, comply with compliance mandates, and boost efficiency in the IT department.

Hitachi JP1/AJS2 was implemented at Nikon (Thailand) by a joint Hitachi Asia-MAT team. The implementation went very smoothly, with the exception of a couple of initial hiccups, which were quickly resolved. The implementation was done in two phases: the first phase was completed in 2006, and the second phase was completed in 2008.

Hitachi JP1/AJS2 was installed at Nikon (Thailand) in 2006, which led to a significant improvement in the way the company managed its IT operations. The solution has enabled Nikon (Thailand) to centrally define, schedule and execute all jobs, including those that are critical to its core mission-critical applications.

With Hitachi JP1/AJS2, the issues that Nikon (Thailand) had with job management have become a thing of the past. The level of automation is very high and we have clear visibility of job status and workflow. There is now tighter meshing of our mission-critical applications and timelier synchronisation of our production activities, and this has resulted in a more stable production schedule, said Mr. Jeerasak.

The implementation of Hitachi JP1/AJS2 led to significant improvements in the company’s bottom line. The company was able to reduce the number of late deliveries, and it was also able to reduce its operational costs. In addition, the company was able to improve its compliance with J-SOX, which is Japan’s Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Jeerasak Phakhong
Assistant Manager
System & Planning Department

Nikon (Thailand) set about looking for an automated solution. "We were evaluating different solutions, but we found that Hitachi JP1/AJS2 was the best fit for our needs," said Mr. Jeerasak.

The solution enabled the company to centrally define, schedule and execute all jobs, including those that are critical to its core mission-critical applications. This led to a significant improvement in the way the company managed its IT operations.

Jeerasak Phakhong
Assistant Manager
System & Planning Department

Nikon (Thailand) is well-known for its precision manufacturing expertise, and the company recognized the importance of having an automated solution to manage its IT operations.

Jeerasak Phakhong
Assistant Manager
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About Nikon (Thailand) Co., Ltd. A member of the Nikon Group, Nikon (Thailand) Co., Ltd. was established in 1990 to manufacture cameras, lenses, and camera components. Located in Ayuttaya Province, it employs more than 9,000 persons. www.nikon.co.th