

Canon Zhuhai, Inc.



The unique features of JP1/AJS2 like user-friendly task and process definition, compatibility with multiple task status, visual monitoring mode and automatic fulfillment of operation tasks allocated in different workplace and between different platforms won the favor of Canon Zhuhai.

Canon Zhuhai, Inc. (hereafter referred to as Canon Zhuhai) is one of the key product manufacturing bases that Canon Group of Japan established in China in 1990, with a total investment amounting to \$169.88 million and a registered capital of \$65 million. Canon Zhuhai occupies a total land area of 90,092 square meters, 63,009 of which is used for factory buildings. Now it employs a workforce of 9,000 and so far it has accomplished a production output of 30-million conventional cameras, 10-million digital cameras, 20-million laser printers and 3-million color laser printers.

Project Background

With the development of the global information society, Canon Group has established production management system for its production facilities all over the world. Due to each of those systems was established at a different time by each production base, they are quite different from each other and hard to be operated and managed or upgraded in a unified fashion. To unify the global information system of Canon Group, it decided to re-establish a new unified production management system. To make it cover all production bases, the new system offers the general features like project management, order management and inventory management.

However, the data analysis system such as productivity assessment and supplier efficiency assessment is still necessary to each manufacturing base. Therefore, it becomes a key issue for the IT managers of manufacturing bases that how establish this system and make it compatible with the new production management applied to Canon head office and combine the two systems into one integrated production management analysis systems. After thorough studies on some commonly used data management analysis systems available in the market, Mr. Zhao Huiming, associate director of Operations Department at Statistics Center, and Yan Jianqiang, head of the IT Promotion Section of Operations Department, decided to adopt Hitachi data management analysis system to meet the needs of Canon Zhuhai.

With keen insight and years-long experience in IT system development and management, Zhao Huiming and Yan Jianqiang realized that to ensure good integration of their data management and analysis system into the new production system of Canon head office, they have to rely on two kinds of tools: one is the middle ware

of job management that performs automatic data flow management and the other is the flexible and simple tabulation system. It cannot be achieved without either of them. They chose the JP1/AJS2 (Automatic Job Management System 2 – Manager) and JP1/EUR(End User Report) provided by Hitachi Information Systems (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.

**Why neither of them is dispensable?
-----JP1/AJS2 allows smooth
interchange between different
platforms**

As we all know, streamlined production workflow leads to big increase in productivity. To some extent, JP1/AJS2 is like a data-processing streamline that is responsible to correctly and promptly transfer the data to the nodes where it is required.

Obviously, a data analysis system must be supplied with data so that it can have a function. The data to be analyzed by the system is sourced from the new production system in Canon head office and the work data of different departments of Canon Zhuhai. As we stated above, Canon Zhuhai is a large-scale enterprise, the data acquired from the fore-stated two sources is huge, which make it impossible to process it manually. If no special system can be used to automatically extract these data on a timely basis, much of the data analyzing can not be finished.

The work fulfilled by JP1/AJS2 seems simple, but the users have very high requirements for such middle ware of job flow management in practice.

The first requirement is that the data flow transfer path should be set and updated in a simple way. If that process is not simple enough, each change will require that the supplier of job manager software be invited to perform upgrading, which obviously costs more money, manpower and material.



"We just could not interconnect different systems in real sense before and they were running separately from each other. With JP1/AJS2 applied, we can easily link the systems based on different platforms, which allows the work to be done smoothly in a multiple platform and operating system environment."

Mr. Yan Jianqiang,
Head of IT Promotion Section
Operations Department
Canon Zhuhai

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Needs

- Re-establish a new unified production management system
- Make local system compatible with the new production management system
- Flexible and simple tabulation system

Solution

- Link the systems based on different platforms using JP1/AJS2
- Simplifies complicated tabulation work using JP1/EUR

Benefits

- Achieve normal operation of the data management and analysis system
- Lead to improvement of efficiency of other system operation
- Shorten working hours of tabulation development

Canon Zhuhai purchasing Hitachi JP1/AJS2 is primarily to achieve normal operation of the data management and analysis system. Surprisingly, the introduction of JP1/AJS2 leads to improvement of efficiency of other system operation.

Another important issue is that the platforms that the operation of different systems is based on maybe different from each other. Yet the production manager system requires two-way data transfer between them to create a smooth data transfer access between different systems.

One more issue is the reliability of a job management software and data transfer monitoring. Any failure caused by job management software will result in suspension of the entire operation data flow. If the job management software neglects the monitoring, and if it causes the suspension of certain production procedure and no timely alarm is given or no reset is preset, huge losses might be caused thereof.

The fore-stated three points are the key indicators to measure the performance of job management system. However, JP1/AJS2 is a package of excellent job management system. Its unique features like user-friendly task and process definition, compatibility with multiple task status, visual monitoring mode and automatic fulfillment of operation tasks allocated in different workplace and between different platforms won the favor of Canon Zhuhai.

Mr. Yan Jianqiang commented, "We just could not interconnect different systems in real sense before and they were running separately from each other. With JP1/AJS2 applied, we can easily link the systems based on different platforms, which allows the work to be done smoothly in a multiple platform and operating system environment."

JP1/EUR Simplifies Complicated Tabulation Work

The conservative statistics suggest that Canon Zhuhai may produce over 2,000 types of tabulation! Self-reliant development of such a large quantity of tabulation by the staff of IT department will end up in a huge waste of resources. To efficiently resolve the problem of tabulation development demand and given the future development, Canon Zhuhai adopts the JP1/EUR.

JP1/EUR offers visual tabulation design that user can not only display worksheet and data on window but make graphic design at the same time, which badly shortens working hours of tabulation development.

Just by mouse clicking, Canon Zhuhai has accomplished tabulation development and finished all tabulation work in a short time, which laid a solid foundation for the normal operation of production.

Unexpected Gains

Canon Zhuhai purchasing Hitachi JP1/AJS2 is primarily to achieve normal operation of the data management and analysis system. Surprisingly, the introduction of JP1/AJS2 leads to improvement of efficiency of other system operation.

Currently Canon Zhuhai is considering to run JP1/AJS2 between more different systems. Combined with the application of user-friendly tabulation tool JP1/EUR, Canon Zhuhai believes that JP1 would create even more benefits for it.

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