

Case Study

Considerable savings for Flowplant thanks to Invend™

Invend™ has resulted in above-average consumable spend savings for a leading engineering group.



For manufacturers using high volumes of low value, frequently-used industrial consumables, traceability is an all too common problem.

Storage can also prove to be a headache – if items are locked up in cupboards, access is restricted leading to delays in productivity. Conversely, if consumables are freely available, a high volume of cash will be tied up in stock and visibility over individual usage is minimal.

The challenge

Flowplant manufactures and supplies equipment for a range of industrial applications, such as drain and sewer cleaning, abrasive blasting and descaling and hydrostatic testing.

Working on a range of high profile projects, it is essential for Flowplant to have sufficient stock of easily accessible consumables to ensure downtime is minimised and small-value, high-volume items can be traced.

Additionally, Flowplant’s historic management of low-value consumables consisted of paper ordering and the purchasing department having to constantly liaise with stores, which were not always open when stock was required.

The solution

Following research into an internal solution, Flowplant contacted us after reading our white paper on industrial vending which highlighted the potential savings of between 25 and 40 per cent on consumables.

Invend™ allowed Flowplant to benefit from an industrial vending service without the up-front cost of having to purchase the machine. We installed the Invend™ machine into Flowplant’s factory, giving site managers a complete oversight of what is being used, by whom, and how often.

It can be used on a 24/7 basis, providing the user with the right industrial consumables at the time they need them. Additionally, the equipment is maintained by us, as well as the re-ordering system, which automatically notifies when we need to restock if inventory runs low.



We have been delighted with the introduction of Invend™ in our manufacturing facility. We have received fantastic feedback from our operators, who find the ease of use a considerable benefit, as well as the availability of equipment to them during all times of the day.

We’re able to track who is using the products, providing high visibility, as well as giving our operators the freedom to simply select the products they require knowing they will be in stock because of the automatic reordering. The system fits with our lean philosophy and provides improvements with our reporting, at a cost which is significantly lower than it used to be.

Mark Bastable
Managing Director
of Flowplant



The outcome

Since implementing Invend™ on site, Flowplant has seen savings of around 60 per cent on consumables, a considerable saving for the manufacturer.

Moreover, the stock ordering process is effectively outsourced and falls in line with Flowplant’s lean manufacturing philosophy, adding value by reducing wasted time and unnecessary spend.