

Ultriva Releases New Supplier Replenishment Software for Lean Manufacturing

CUPERTINO, Calif. – Jan. 12, 2006 – Ultriva Inc., the world leader in lean manufacturing software, today introduced a new product, Ultriva Supplier Replenishment, designed to help manufacturers digitally manage all forms of material replenishment with suppliers. The new product combines Ultriva’s market leading Electronic Kanban capabilities with new features that allow manufacturers to replenish material with purchase orders based on forecasts or production schedules. Ultriva Supplier Replenishment provides both manufacturers and suppliers a single internet portal where they can view forecasts and kanban signals, release purchase orders, track orders and manage receipts. Ultriva Supplier Replenishment is designed to eliminate stock-outs and resulting expedited deliveries while reducing inventory levels by up to 75 percent – while streamlining processes and dramatically increasing buyer and planner productivity.

Ultriva Supplier Replenishment addresses the critical need for manufacturers to manage both kanban and traditional forecast-based material replenishment within a single application environment. The product includes the ability to manage a wide variety of inventory replenishment methods, including: schedule-based replenishment, discrete POs, min/max, consignment and VMI (vendor-managed inventory) replenishment methods. With Ultriva Supplier Replenishment, manufacturers can drive replenishment from production schedules, publish forecasts to suppliers, and automate purchase order releases and receipts through a collaborative Internet portal. Ultriva Supplier Replenishment ensures a clear system of record for “real orders” for manufacturers faced with long lead-time materials and fluctuating production schedules.

“With Ultriva Supplier Replenishment, manufacturers can consistently manage inventory and suppliers regardless of whether traditional or lean replenishment techniques are being used,” said Ashley Stirrup, CEO of Ultriva, Inc. “This makes it much easier for manufacturers to adopt pull-based replenishment techniques with as little system and process change as possible.”

“Competitive pressures are driving manufacturing to be increasingly dynamic and real-time collaboration with suppliers has become critically important,” said Ralph Rio, Director, ARC Advisory Group. “Ultriva Supplier Replenishment addresses this need by providing them real-time access to inventory and order status to improve visibility and reduce stock-outs.”

Companies using Ultriva Supplier Replenishment will have a single portal that promises to:

- Improve supplier on-time delivery performance by enabling better collaboration and data sharing between buyers and suppliers.
- Improve buyer and planner productivity by automatically flagging and communicating new and changed orders to suppliers, eliminating unreliable communications by fax or email.
- Eliminate stock-outs by tracking order status and proactively alerting buyers to high-risk situations.
- Reduce inventory levels by providing better inventory on-hand data and continuous improvement analytics

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About Ultriva

Ultriva, Inc., is a leader in lean manufacturing software that drives lean processes across the supply chain – from suppliers to customers. Ultriva’s flagship product, Ultriva Electronic Kanban, eliminates stock-outs while reducing inventory levels up to 75 percent. Ultriva Lean Scheduling complements demand-driven replenishment strategies by optimizing production schedules in real-time around the most variable customer demand. Ultriva Supplier Replenishment extends the replenishment capabilities of kanban to include schedule-based replenishment, discrete POs, min/max, consignment and VMI (vendor-managed inventory) replenishment methods. Ultriva’s products are in use worldwide reducing manufacturing costs with industry leaders such as Rexnord, Emerson, Ingersoll-Rand and Invensys.

Founded in 1999, the company pioneered the creation of an application development platform that has helped move lean manufacturing from a paper-based system to one incorporating modern computer technology, allowing seamless integration of the suppliers and customers into plant production processes.

Through partnerships with lean consultants, and hardware and software providers, Ultriva provides a comprehensive solution that enables companies to quickly adopt lean manufacturing techniques while streamlining and optimizing their supply chain across customers, plants and suppliers.

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