

[Title Page]

[h2] Case Study

[h1] Multi-Plant Scheduling with New Belgium Brewing

[Quote] *“With two breweries, we need PlanetTogether’s analytics tools for visibility between plants. If something happens in Fort Collins, we now understand capacity in Asheville, and vice versa. Having PlanetTogether for communication is imperative.” – Brian Goodwin, Master Scheduler*

[New Belgium logo; PT branding and footer]

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[h2] Business Challenges

Since the company's founding in 1991, New Belgium Brewing has grown exponentially. Scheduler, Brian Goodwin, joined the team in 1999 and has seen production double over five times since. This massive growth led to increasingly complex manufacturing and distribution practices. The brewery has had to transition from manual brewing to automated; handwritten logs to scanned bar codes; from six brands to well over 100.

[Quote] *"These days, the consumer wants more, and they like variety," says Goodwin. "That presents fun challenges to schedulers like myself."*

The New Belgium team originally managed their brewing schedule in a notebook and on a dry-erase board. In 2003, they adopted Excel, but still kept some shipping and receiving logs on paper. Though spreadsheets worked for a while, the platform was too unstable. Excel would crash and become unusable, or someone would mistype or delete a part of a formula and disseminate the wrong information throughout the organization. Managing the spreadsheets became a time-consuming burden with significant risks, relying heavily on tribal knowledge. The New Belgium team needed one place to store and find all of their scheduling details.

[h2] Solution

In 2012, the company outgrew its accounting software and migrated to Microsoft AX, a popular ERP (enterprise resource planning) software. The spreadsheets the planners had been using until then became even more of a pain point; Excel did not communicate well with AX. In addition, planners and managers would have to resequence the schedule in order to suit their methods. Goodwin decided to implement PlanetTogether's APS (Advanced Planning & Scheduling) system in concordance with the ERP transition, largely because it integrated seamlessly with AX and provided great visibility. As a result, teams on the production floor can now see changes to the schedule in real time.

CLIENT: NEW BELGIUM BREWERY

INDUSTRY

Food & Beverage, Brewery

CUSTOMER PROFILE

1988. Belgium. Jeff Lebesch, an aspiring young homebrewer, rides his mountain bike with "fat tires" through European villages famous for beer. Lebesch would return to Fort Collins, CO with an imagination full of recipes and a handful of ingredients ready to embark on a whole new journey.

Jeff's Belgian-inspired brews garnered enough praise from friends and neighbors that Jeff and his wife, Kim Jordan, took their basement brewery commercial in 1991. Today, New Belgium Brewing exists as a 100% employee owned company dedicated to the production of world-class beer, the environment, and community-- the Core Values initially set by Lebesch and Jordan.

newbelgium.com

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[Quote] *“Instead of seeking and tracking down information, it is being ‘radiated’ to our team. Our guys can see if things are received on the line. We can click a button to see how many cases we’ve run, and then monitor that as it goes. APS aligns us more.”*

[h2] Results & Benefits

PlanetTogether gives Goodwin and the other planners the capability of What-If Scenarios, meaning that the software can suggest changes to operations with supportive modeling.

[Emphasis] *This type of dynamic planning has reduced the brewery’s setup time by 30%*

Furthermore, the entire team can infer from the data presented in the APS when certain brews are expected to finish, and when to order the appropriate storage and packaging containers.

[Emphasis] *The PlanetTogether system has reduced the total number of late jobs by more than 20%*

Since implementing the software, New Belgium has opened a second brewery half a nation away from their headquarters. PlanetTogether gives planners a transparency that is ideal for a multi-plant environment. If there is a disruption in process—such as a delay or emergency—at one brewery, the planning team can easily coordinate to offload orders to the other location. Goodwin can now remove himself from the day-to-day fires and dive into details as he sees fit, to continue to improve customer service and production efficiency.

PLANETTOGETHER PROFILE

PlanetTogether was founded in 2004 as the culmination of decades of academic research at Cornell University. Combined with over 20 years of industry experience, we focus on making manufacturers more successful by applying software that solves production planning and scheduling problems. With our powerful, easy to use, integrated software tools and education, manufacturers can attract and retain customers by delivering faster —and do it more profitably by minimizing resource and inventory costs.

PlanetTogether is on a mission to make the planet more productive, one manufacturer at a time.

planettogether.com

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[h1] Want to optimize the performance of your Brewery?

Get started with a free brewery assessment

[CTA Button] Request Assessment

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