



Panoz Auto Development Corporation

1 CUSTOMER STORY

At a Glance

Panoz Auto Development Corporation

Hoschton, Georgia

CHALLENGE:

Panoz, a manufacturer of customized aluminum production vehicles, needed an extremely flexible system that could track “build” changes in 20 manufacturing bays, control the inventory associated with those changes and calculate the cost of each customized unit.

The Company

Panoz Auto Development Corporation, based in Georgia, is the only manufacturer of aluminum production vehicles designed and built completely in the United States. The molded aluminum fabrication process employed in the production of the Panoz AIV (Aluminum Intensive Vehicle) Roadster was developed in conjunction with aluminum giant, ALUMAX, and Superform USA. The technology, which sets the Roadster apart from other production sports cars, is used to form the aluminum body panels, alleviating stress and adding strength. The result is outstanding performance, exceptional stability and balance, better fuel economy, increased levels of safety and total recyclability. Because of its platform of matched Ford components, the Roadster is 100 percent Ford dealer serviceable. The vehicle also falls within the limits of current U.S. government safety and emissions regulations.

The Challenge

Panoz faced several challenges in building its unique cars. The first was to build a “production” car with the ability to “customize” it to various dealer requirements. Another was to have complete data on costs in order to determine how to price the cars.

The Solution

The innovative technology behind the Panoz AIV Roadster is indicative of the forward thinking nature of Panoz Automotive Development Company. This forward thinking also extends to the company’s choice of computer software to help it meet the many challenges it faced. In 1997, with the company in the throes of rapid growth, Plant Manager Joel Grewett selected enterprise software from SYSPRO. “We considered costs, implementation time and, of course, functionality. Also, system flexibility was paramount – the very nature of our business demands an extremely flexible system,” recalls Grewett.

The Results

Today, Panoz uses the latest version of SYSPRO software running on Microsoft Windows NT to control all aspects of production of the Panoz AIV Roadster and its newest model, the Esperante. SYSPRO enables Panoz to control the manufacturing process, provide complete data on costs and customize each vehicle to dealer requirements during the final phases of the manufacturing process, which is accomplished in more than 20 bays.

SYSPRO software determines the parts necessary to produce the Roadster and issues all job tickets for the production of sub-assemblies as well as the finished vehicle. The actual manufacturing process uses 20 different manufacturing bays, enabling the company to build a “generic” Roadster that can be individually detailed with various interior and exterior colors during the final production phases.

Each manufacturing bay requires a job ticket. The software issues the job tickets with one copy accompanying the job and the other going to the parts department which then dispatches the required parts to each bay.

“SYSPRO software allows us to track build changes in the vehicle,” says Grewett. “If there’s a change on the floor, the system negatively issues out the unused components and issues new ones. This procedure alone saves us huge amounts of time associated with the controlling and relieving of inventory,” he says.

According to Grewett, SYSPRO allows the company to see the “big picture,” including available resources, flow rates and even the actual cost of producing each Roadster.

Visit Panoz at www.panozauto.com.