



## Benefits & Return on Investment

Installed by more than 2,200 companies in 65 countries around the world.



### 5 IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT PREACTOR

Preactor provides a wide range of benefits for users including lower WIP, better synchronization of production and on-time delivery performance. There are 5 key reasons for this.

#### 1 | ACCURATE MODEL

Preactor's 15 years experience in the market ensures that all types of environments can be modeled in as much detail as needed.

#### 2 | FAST GENERATION

Preactor's breakthrough algorithms ensure that schedules can be generated in seconds or minutes.

#### 3 | VISIBILITY

Schedule information can be displayed in a variety of ways that enables users to see the whole picture, identify problems and see the impact of potential solutions before they are implemented.

#### 4 | INTERACTIVE TOOL

Drag and drop interaction with the Gantt chart allows the planner to manipulate the schedule and try alternative strategies such as changes in order priority or adding planned maintenance to key resources.

#### 5 | WHAT-IF ANALYSIS

Multiple schedules can be generated using different optimization rules and objectives then compared using schedule analysis tools.

## A STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

Better on-time, in-full, delivery performance is almost a given from advanced planning and scheduling software, able to quickly and dynamically schedule and re-schedule production orders to take into account not only real-world capacity limits, but unexpected events that pop up and bite us. For many, however, APS has also yielded benefits spreading far beyond. In fact, although APS projects have traditionally been started to solve planning problems, the results can be so great that APS is ultimately viewed as pivotal both to the business and its supply chain.

APS software can be critical to staying off competition. As lower cost economies have an increasing impact, companies have to look strategically at how they can provide extra value. One way might be to make smaller batches at shorter time intervals with fewer inventories, but to do that you need to see plans in more detail, more frequently, and assess the impact of different decisions. That's where APS type tools can help. It works by building a schedule into the future – and that can be for today's shift, this year's production forecast, or anything in between – that takes into account the fact that all manner of resources are not infinite, as we might like, but constrained. Thus raw material availability, the number, type and capabilities of machines on the shop-floor, the time available and even the available personnel and their skill sets can all be factored into the equation to produce a realistic and credible plan.



By being able to respond to 'what-if' questions, APS provides a crystal ball to look into the future for different scenarios based on what's happening in the factory today. It provides a valuable tool for coping with the unexpected and also for short-term variability. And that's whether it's a manufacturing process that produces a range of different qualities, perhaps due to raw material variations, that might need to be allocated to different customers, or coping with the unpredictability of fresh ingredient availability.

## FAST SCHEDULE GENERATION

Preactor has been recognized by independent experts as having the hottest technology available for generating optimized schedules. In-memory data ensures that multiple schedules can be generated in very short time scales to provide the planner with the information required to make the right decisions in a fluid production environment.





## ACCURATE MODEL

Having the right level of detail in the model is critical to providing the right solution for each company. Too much detail and the planner cannot easily understand the problems and recognize the solution. Too little detail may result in impractical plans and unreliable output.

Because Preactor has been in the market for more than 15 years, thousands of users have been able to provide valuable feedback in terms of what is required for their application and what they need to see. The expertise and experience of these users has resulted in the most complete solution available on the market.

## VISIBILITY

Preactor has a variety of ways to display information that needs to be a mouse click away or on multiple screens. Color coding, message boxes, dialog boxes and alerts can be personalized to the planner to meet specific needs. As the actual start and finish times update the schedule, the planner can repair the schedule without generating a new one and see the impact and opportunities for fine tuning.



## INTERACTIVE TOOL

Preactor has been developed with the user in mind. It is simple to use but under the bonnet there are powerful tools to help the planner manipulate the schedule and manage the facility to meet business objectives. It is a decision support tool rather than a decision making tool. It supports the planner to make better decisions. Drag and drop interaction with the Gantt chart allows the planner to manipulate the schedule and try alternative strategies such as changes in order priority or adding planned maintenance to key resources.



## WHAT-IF ANALYSIS

The planner's job is not an easy one. Urgent orders arrive, delays to the delivery of raw materials, scrap and rework and resource breakdown can have a devastating impact on efficiency and promise dates. In a demand driven company where customer service must be maintained, costs reduced and resource utilization maximized, ERP systems, spreadsheets and wallboards are not enough. Preactor provides tools to analyze the problems as well as testing alternative scenarios to overcome them.

## FAST ROI

Case studies and references are available in almost every manufacturing sector as well as services and logistics applications. Some of the measurable benefits include:-

- **15-20%** Improvement in productivity – get more from what you already have.
- **40-50%** Reduction in raw materials inventory – synchronize purchasing with an achievable schedule.
- **40-50%** Reduction in make-span time – reduce WIP that slows down production flow.
- **50-90%** Improvement in customer service – increase on-time deliveries.

These benefits can provide a return in investment (ROI) measured in weeks or just a few months.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Preactor International Ltd  
Cornbrash Park  
Bumpers Way  
Chippenham  
Wiltshire  
United Kingdom  
SN14 6RA

Tel: +44 (0) 1249 650316  
Fax: +44 (0) 1249 443413

Web: [www.preactor.com](http://www.preactor.com)  
Email: [sales@preactor.com](mailto:sales@preactor.com)

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## OF OUR CUSTOMER TESTIMONIALS

### 1 | WALL COLMONOY

*"The accuracy of current and projected capacity utilisation provided valuable information for production to feedback to the Sales team. For example, production can now identify a specific window when it knows it can comfortably beat the industry average for a certain product, and for how long. On time delivery performance is up from 80% to 95% while machine utilisation has been increased from 75 to 92%."*

*Scott Powell, Planning Supervisor*

### 2 | SOTREQ CRC

*"Within just a few weeks after going live measurable benefits were achieved. The lead time to assemble final drives for off-roads trucks was reduced from 4 to 3 days without additional hours by better synchronisation of operations. Recently we have used Preactor to decide on a shift change. With the same number of people we have started a second shift which has been able to reduce the lead time further to 2 days, a 50% reduction. In addition Sotreq has heavily reduced overtime, by more than 40%."*

*Tulio Santos, Service Scheduler*

### 3 | ARDO

*"The system has also brought levels of flexibility that were simply impossible before. We now have the ability to run 'What If' scenarios which are invaluable should we have a problem with a delivery or on a production line. We know instantly the impact of an event on the entire plan and from that use Preactor to judge how best to react."*

*Patricia Speakman, Production Planner*