

NFT Distribution

NFT is the UK's leading provider of logistics solutions for the food retail and manufacturing sectors, providing primary and secondary chilled services through their transport, warehousing and logistics solutions

NFT delivers over 120,000 pallets of chilled food each week, travelling to almost every major UK retailer every day. NFT has more than 1,700 employees, and runs more than 370 articulated vehicles across the business, covering over 1.4 million kilometres every week.

Both logistics businesses, and distribution departments in manufacturing facilities, have similar challenges. The combination of prescriptive customer demands, rapidly changing workloads and lack of workforce visibility means that over-manning and poor labour utilisation is endemic. In order to improve efficiencies and better react to exceptional distribution and production circumstances managers are fighting the battle for workforce flexibility on two fronts; trying to improve skills flexibility within the existing workforce and at the same time increase labour elasticity through the implementation of flexible working practices. Sadly, due to disparate data and the limited visibility of operative skills and working patterns, few companies are in a position to fully exploit the considerable efficiency gains that can be made. Inexpensive, easy to implement and easy to own, DLM Labour resource planning has the answer.

The screenshot displays the DLM Digital Logistics Manager interface. The main window shows a 'Pick Schedule' for Thursday, 06/02/2014. Key summary data includes:

- Picking Shortage (Hrs): 84
- Forecasted figure to be processed: 987654
- Distributed employee hours: 777.7
- Processable figure: 100000
- Variance: -12345
- Total pick hours / shifts required: 999.1 / 111.1
- NFT hours on shift: 321
- Agency hours on shift: 997
- Extra hours / shifts required: 32.1 / 10.1

An 'Other employee cover' dialog box is open, showing a table of employee assignments:

Number	Name	Planned period	Status	Pick start	Pick end	Pick hours
000001	Allen, Michaels	06:00 - 18:00	Flex	07:00	08:00	1 hour
000002	Bristovicova, Mateusz	06:00 - 18:00	Flex	06:00	15:00	9 hours
000003	Bristovicova, Mateusz	06:00 - 16:00	Flex	15:00	16:00	1 hour
000004	Ciunowicz, Andrej	Overtime	18:00	03:00	03:00	9 hours
000005	Ciunowicz, Andrej	Overtime	03:00	04:00	04:00	1 hour
000005	Fila, Matthew	Overtime	07:00	08:00	08:00	1 hour

The main grid below shows coverage for various shifts (e.g., 06-07:00, 07-08:00, 08-09:00, 09-10:00, 10-11:00, 11-12:00, 12-13:00) across different agencies (Adj, NFT, Agency, NFT, Agency, NFT, Agency, NFT, Agency, Adj, Adj). The grid contains numerical values representing the number of employees assigned to each shift and agency combination.



“The team at DLM were willing to listen carefully to our situation and deliver a solution tailored to our requirements.

The partnership approach DLM brought to the table to work closely with our team at Daventry has delivered exactly the solution we were hoping for and significantly more.

Automatic allocation of the workforce based on the daily and hourly order volumes, total visibility and fairness in the allocation of working hours and overtime, a double digit percentage increase in Direct Work Rate (DWR) and return on investment has been delivered within four months of implementation.”

Stephen Szikora,
IT director, NFT

NFT Distribution were facing three significant challenges

1 Volatility of demand and flexibility of the workforce to meet the volatile demand

2 Significant Growth from 1.2 million cases to 1.8 million cases per week

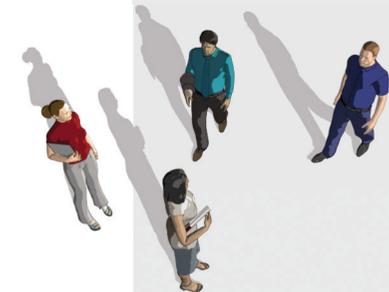
3 Opportunity for employees to fair and equal access to work and overtime

Stephen Szikora IT Director at NFT in Daventry was looking for a strategic and innovative solution to labour resource planning, with particular focus on the above challenges. Important criteria in the decision were a low capital outlay and return on investment which could be delivered within the first year of implementation. With the above criteria in mind Stephen had been researching Cloud based Software as a Service (SaaS) solutions. Stephen was having difficulty finding solutions to the above issues and finally came across DLM.

Stephen along with Andy De'Vere Operations Director and his operations manager Gavin Symington investigated the DLM solution further to review the value proposition and very quickly decided to commission DLM Systems to deliver the project.

A joint project team was set up between NFT and DLM to ensure the scope and specification of the project were defined to the exact and unique requirements at the NFT Daventry site. The development was designed to be a phased approach and so it was decided the customised DLM warehouse labour resource planning module would be implemented as phase 1. Phase 2 of the project would be to integrate with the internal Warehouse Management System and other in-house systems at the Daventry site.

“The two stages of the project have now been successfully completed”, says NFT IT Director, Stephen Szikora, “with these impressive results: Automatic allocation of the workforce based on the daily and hourly order volumes. Total visibility and fairness in the allocation of working hours and overtime. A double digit percentage increase in Daily Work Rate (DWR) Return on investment has been delivered within 4 months of implementation”



DLM

For a no obligation demonstration email
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