

RATHBURN TOOL & MANUFACTURING

AUBURN, INDIANA

Purdue MEP Assists Repeat Client with ERP System Analysis & Implementation

“As a small manufacturer, it’s sometimes difficult to know where to find the trusted expertise and funding to help you grow and develop your business. I’ve found that, through multiple engagements with Purdue MEP across a variety of business areas, they have brought the experience and knowledge to help Rathburn perform at a higher level to better serve our customers.”

Angie Holt

President

Rathburn Tool & Manufacturing

The Challenge:

Rathburn Tool & Manufacturing was facing the sunset of its Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, originally implemented in 2012, and had begun researching alternative ERP options by visiting trade shows, attending webinars, and networking. However, Rathburn found that it was very difficult to adequately research all of the ERP options available, and they didn’t have the bandwidth to do it well. Rathburn had recently used Purdue MEP with great success in the areas of cybersecurity and quality, so they were thrilled to learn that Purdue MEP also offered ERP consulting services.

The Solution:

Exploring ERP options can be a challenging and expensive task, but with grant funding from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), Purdue MEP helped Rathburn Tool map out their current processes and develop a vision for a future state in order to detail the scope of an ERP system that would serve them now and for many years to come. Purdue MEP also helped them create an RFQ scope document, identify and narrow down a list of ERP solutions and providers in their budget that met their objectives, and evaluate all of the proposals. Purdue MEP assisted in the development of a short list, facilitated software demonstrations, and provided technical and operational insight to help Rathburn make their final decision.

The Results:

The Indiana DIB Capability Accelerator Program (IDCAP) grant, funded by the OLDCC, provided Rathburn with an analysis of ERP suitability/needs, ERP selection, and ERP implementation.

Additional assistance through the grant also included Lean (AS9100) training and consulting, and network security improvements. Additional details can be found in Rathburn’s full success story online about the impacts of the AS9100 training.

Impacts:

- Rathburn Tool was able to confidently select the best and most robust ERP to meet the quality and metrics required of the automotive and aerospace industries. This selection facilitated the **long-term reduction of annual costs by over 35%**.
- The unbiased support during the ERP needs analysis and selection process **saved Rathburn \$20,000 annually** for new ERP software due to negotiation assistance **and an estimated savings of \$20,000 in ERP implementation costs**.
- The ERP transition is estimated to reduce management and administrative staff costs through **improved productivity of \$50,000 annually**.



Read more at: <https://mep.purdue.edu/client-successes/rathburn-tool-manufacturing/>

ABOUT MEP

Purdue Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) provides high-value solutions to help Indiana businesses maximize their success. As advocates for Indiana’s thousands of manufacturers, our staff identifies areas of improvement, streamlines processes, and ultimately increases competitiveness. Purdue MEP serves hundreds of companies annually by implementing continuous improvement principles in the areas of productivity, growth, and technology.