



Behind Oil, Coffee Most Traded Commodity in the World

World-Class Maximus Sets Quality Standards with Heavyweight APS Platform

Originally established in Madrid, Spain in 1928 by Carlos De Aldecoa Fernandez, the Maximus Coffee Group grew to international scale, and continues to expand under Carlos de Aldecoa Bueno, grandson to the founder.

Today, Maximus maintains 1.4 million square feet of facilities; the world's largest natural decaffeination plant; the only fully integrated private-label instant coffee manufacturing operation in North America; 11 roasting lines; 22 packing lines; 45 grinding lines, all supplied from the leading coffee port in the world, the Port of Houston, home to Maximus.

Maximus procures and processes bulk green coffee, then custom roasts and blends the coffee by soluble processing, natural decaffeination and grinding, before packaging and distributing the coveted brew around the world. Maximus coffee plants are considered the most integrated in the world.



Outdated Scheduling Software

Recently, Maximus acquired Kraft's Maxwell House facility in Houston, and quickly discovered a production scheduling challenge in efficiency standards between its existing facilities and the acquisition. Maximus already planned to upgrade its own planning and scheduling software, so the time was right for Jaime Ozuna, Maximus's Production Scheduler, to source a heavyweight platform provider. PlanetTogether emerged the winner out of a three company competition.

Ozuna now has trouble recalling the specifics of their old system. "I know what we called it, Schedule X. I can't remember who made it, but I was so glad to see it go!" Under Schedule X, Ozuna had no choice but to schedule production machines one by one on separate pages. "It was not user friendly," Ozuna recalled.

According to Ozuna, "PlanetTogether's APS was easier. Color coordinated functionality makes the schedule simple to scan, and data is easily modified to fit our specific needs. I can look at my screen and know exactly when we're running decaffeinated coffee. I know when jobs will be late, on time, case quantities. I see everything on one screen."

On One Screen

"The great thing about APS from PlanetTogether . . . all machines can be grouped together on one screen. You know immediately how each machine impacts the other and their basic correlation to the whole schedule, not just for the current week but for days, weeks, or months out . . . very organized and coordinated", says Ozuna.

Above all, PlanetTogether opened up a new customer segment for Maximus, those who insist on daily and weekly schedules, which Maximus now delivered. ***"I'm very happy now that everything is up and running. We use it for everything. PlanetTogether has cut production scheduling time in half."*** informs

Ozuna. If Maximus encounters the occasional kink in the platform, PlanetTogether offers immediate support services from integration through the life of the relationship.

“I highly recommend PlanetTogether. Life will be easier for any manufacturer who chooses PlanetTogether; it’s an efficient scheduler, plain and simple, and overall great product and so worth the investment,” said Ozuna.

About PlanetTogether

PlanetTogether is known for stellar performance in production scheduling for multi-plant manufacturers. Founded in 2004 by Cornell University engineers, this San Diego-based software developer thrives on the challenge of algorithms to drive manufacturing efficiency. Planet’s showcase product is the **Galaxy APS production scheduling platform**, whose muscular functionality cuts inventory and labor costs in half, boosts productivity by double digits, and connects multi-plant operations with precision. Fully customizable, *Galaxy* integrates to virtually all ERP systems, typically in four months, and pays for itself in six.