

# Racal Radar Defence Systems Limited

**Electronic warfare systems maker "locks on" to Cincom's CONTROL™**

**R**acal Radar, the leading European supplier of advanced naval electronic warfare equipment and airborne surveillance radar systems, needed to implement a project-oriented ERP system with a relational database that could integrate five locations across the UK. The company selected Cincom's CONTROL in 1995, and today the system maintains precise visibility and control at every stage of the manufacturing process.



## **Cincom Selected for Project Features and Open Integration Capabilities**

Racal Radar Defence Systems Limited (RRDS) is the leading European supplier of advanced naval electronic warfare equipment and airborne surveillance radar systems. It is the major revenue contributor to the £300 million (\$US 500 million) per year Racal Defence Electronics Group, a division of £1 billion (\$US 1.67 billion) Racal Electronics plc. Radar and electronic-warfare systems from Racal are used by the UK Royal Navy and 40 other national navies worldwide.

The company chose Cincom's CONTROL Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software system in September 1995. Mark Newport, financial director of RRDS and leader of the evaluation team, said, "Of all the systems on offer, only Cincom and one other could genuinely cope with the project environment. After a very detailed evaluation, the Cincom system won comfortably on in-built features and open integration capabilities."

Newport said that CONTROL's use of the Oracle® relational database fit with Racal's long-term needs for a common company-wide database.

The implementation project, which started in early 1996, required that CONTROL be integrated with engineering, CAD/CAM, manufacturing, engineering data management (EDM) and several other software applications. The Leicester, UK site required fully automated materials management, with interfaces to the factory-control computer and some twenty automatic Kardex carousel systems to create kits for assembly purposes.

## **CONTROL Coordinates Production at Five Sites Across Great Britain**

Racal went live on Cincom in early 1997, integrating both old and new systems at Leicester and four other UK locations — Crawley, New Malden, and Wells in England and Linlithgow in Scotland — so that the IS system now coordinates production across all five locations. For example, the Cincom solution provides data to the factory control system at the main plant at Leicester, which in turn drives the automated carousel systems that identify all of the correct component parts for the kitting machine operators on the shop floor.

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*— Mark Newport, Financial Director*


*Racal Radar Defence Systems Limited*

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In addition, parts required from other sites will be kitted and shipped from Leicester to the site where the final assembly takes place. The system maintains precise visibility and control at every stage of the process, Newport said.

"This was a big project across many sites," Newport said. "We had a team of four core implementors, plus the representatives from different user communities. We now have 175 concurrent users with 500 people needing access, and the system has become a key tool for areas such as shop-floor data capture, project management and engineering labour analysis."

"Cincom was the right decision," Newport said. "It's a good product. We've implemented effective IT systems and so can give our engineers and production staff the best possible tools to do the job. Furthermore, we have the same number of IT people as we did when the business was half the size."

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