

**“Using Visual Interrogator I have found that I can find the files I need and the information much faster and easier than the tools I have been using.”**

**Sue Erickson Controller Ermak, Inc.**

## Visual Interactions Success Story Ermak, Inc.

### **Ermak, Inc.**

Foundry and Custom Aluminum Casting

### **Industry**

Manufacturing - Cast Aluminum Products

### **Geography**

2 locations with 42 employees:  
Headquartered in Chaska, MN

### **Application**

Visual Interrogator™ with Business Views for MAS 200 (Version 4.0):  
Work Order  
Sales Order Entry  
Inventory Control  
Purchase Order Receipt History  
Vendors  
AP Check History  
AP Invoice History  
AP Open Invoice  
AR Invoice History  
AR Open History  
GL

Real-time Analysis for MAS 200 includes:

Work Order  
Sales Order Entry on Order  
Sales by Customer  
Sales Order Entry Customer List  
AP Check History  
GL Trial Balance  
GL Cash Flow  
GL Accounts for Credit/Debits

### **Goals**

Sue Erickson, Ermak's Controller was using Crystal Reports and Access along with MAS 90/200. But needed to "establish a reporting system that allows quick access to current information on trends and changes."

### **Benefits**

- Saves time by eliminating additional work associated with retrieving data in Crystal or Access
- Quick access to real-time information keeps Ermak current in tracking for trends and exceptions "to quickly get the information I want and need".
- Ease of Use provides access so "I can quickly arrange the information in order to keep everything up to date."



### **Challenge**

When we upgraded our system to MAS 90/200 my accountant said to me "These new systems are great!" said Sue Erickson, Ermak's Controller. In 2003, Ermak adopted MAS 200 with a comprehensive set of Operation modules to manage the entire business. Converting to the MAS 200 system allowed Ermak to dramatically streamline their processes, with the Work Order and Material Requirements Planning (MRP) modules enabling them to implement just-in-time manufacturing processes.

To generate reporting from MAS 200, Ermak was using Crystal Reports and Access. But according to Erickson, "The problem with them, and it's big, is how do you keep them up to date?" Sue needed to establish a reporting system that allows quick access to current information on trends and changes.

### **Solution**

Ermak worked with Automated Accounting and Visual Interactions to implement Visual Interrogator with a set of business views that provides Erickson with real-time access to her work order and sales order processing. Ermak "figured it out" by implementing Visual Interactions to "establish a reporting system that allows quick access to checking trends and changes that must be kept current."

### **Results**

"Using Visual Interrogator I have found that I can find the files I need and the information much faster and easier than the tools I have been using. It cuts out what I call the unnecessary files, which means I just saved time. And with ease of data collection we're up to date," said Erickson on the benefits of using Visual Interrogator.

On the ease of using the product, she said, "Visual Interrogator is a program that I would even put my husband on... [he] has very little experience... Visual Interrogator is something he could maneuver through."

On the benefits of real-time access, "What's nice about Visual Interrogator is that I don't need to know a complicated program to quickly get the information I want or need. It allows me to define the files I need, on a regular basis, and save them so I can quickly arrange the information in order to keep everything up to date", said Erickson.

This frees Ermak to focus on building results for their business, not reports.

## Company

Visual Interactions is a proven provider of software that simplifies Business Intelligence. Our software eliminates the hassle and frustration that businesses have in using data to make informed decisions. Our customers see immediate benefits from our software because of its low cost, powerful analytics, and incredible ease-of-use.

Visual Interactions is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota and sells through partners who have shown a commitment to using technology to improve their clients' business performance.

## Partners

Visual Interaction's products are implemented through solution partners with a commitment to using technology to improve their clients' businesses.



## Support

Visual Interactions Customer Implementation and Care Coordinators provide partners and customers with technical support. Operating from the company's home office in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Visual Interactions provides comprehensive support via telephone at 952.473.9999 ext. 102, email at [support@vizax.com](mailto:support@vizax.com) and the Internet at [www.vizax.com/support\\_services.html](http://www.vizax.com/support_services.html).

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