

# US Salt

## Turning Salt into Sales



<b>At a Glance</b>
<b>KEY CHALLENGE</b>
Multiple locations running on disparate systems, duplication of work, unable to meet customer demand.
<b>KEY BENEFIT</b>
One centrally managed system, quick order turnaround, better access to reporting and data.
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
US Salt
<b>INDUSTRY</b>
Manufacturing - Spice and Extract

### The Company

U.S. Salt with annual revenues in excess of thirty million dollars is one of the major producers of salt in the world. The company, which is privately held, serves a variety of customers, ranging from bakeries and pharmaceutical manufacturers, which buy salt in bulk, to OEMs, which require the prepackaging and private labeling of various salt products. We offer about 20 different lines of salt products, ranging from table salt, salt crystals and salt blocks to sodium nitrite, a compound used as a preservative and as an ingredient in various rubber formulas, among other uses. Our company headquarters are located in Jacksonville, Fla. We maintain plants in Watkins Glen, New York, where a majority of the salt is extracted, as well as in Gibbstown, New Jersey.

### The Challenge

After acquiring these two plants, we realized we could improve customer service, reduce costs and enhance overall operational efficiency by linking our plants and headquarters through a Wide Area Network (WAN) and centralizing certain financial business functions. We concluded the most expedient hardware setup to be a client/server configuration with the server residing in Jacksonville and client workstations in Jacksonville and our two plants. Client/server architecture, we felt, would enable us to leverage our currently installed hardware and also let us realize the benefits of a centrally managed system, including ease of maintenance, avoidance of duplication of functionality and the easy implementation of software upgrades. Equally as important, it would put the most current information where it could be best utilized – at the fingertips of users.

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**Jeff Hedquist, Director of Information Technologies, US Salt**



## The Solution

The Watkins Glen, New York facility had been using an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) solution, which worked well but was not conducive to client/server architecture. Our reseller suggested we look at SYSPRO ERP software. A strong selling point was that SYSPRO is designed specifically for client/server environments and is easily scalable as our company grows. Another feature that impressed us is the ability of the software to address formulas and recipes as a process client. Another point influencing our decision to go with SYSPRO is the software's highly balanced functionality – it is flexible enough to handle a variety of manufacturing processes, but also offers equally strong capabilities on the financial and distribution sides. A critical point in our decision was also the experience of our reseller in implementing software in industries employing a variety of manufacturing methods.

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*"Today, U.S. Salt is able to turnaround most orders within a phenomenal three-to five-day period with enough flexibility to make last minute changes to the production schedule to accommodate same day turnaround in extreme cases."*



## The Result

US Salt employs a variety of manufacturing methodologies. These not only include a batch process, where we process the salt in various lots, but continuous process as is the case at the Gibbstown facility, make-to-stock, where we forecast the needs of customers and build stock available for shipment on demand, and make-to-order, where we build to special customer formulas and recipes. SYSPRO easily accommodates all these processes, enabling us to meet customer demand while maximizing the capacities of our plants. The software shows inventory on hand and correlates inventory with orders so we know when we have the capacity to build to stock. Today, U.S. Salt is able to turnaround most orders within a phenomenal three- to five-day period with enough flexibility to make last minute changes to the production schedule to accommodate same day turnaround in extreme cases.

The implementation of SYSPRO also produced some unexpected dividends. In addition to highly efficient operation in a client/sever configuration operating on Windows NT, we found the software extremely user-friendly. Since it's Windows-based, many employees have learned it with ease. It also allows individual users to customize their screens, facilitates the use of shortcut keys and has an event management feature which serves to notify users when specific incidents, such as low stock quantity limits, occur. Additionally, we are able to easily download data from the SYSPRO database to microsoft Access in order to produce a variety of management reports.

What's next for U.S. Salt? We are looking forward to the latest release of SYSPRO ERP Software. We believe it will provide us with a whole new array of tools for database management, reporting and analysis.

Jeff Hedquist is director of Information Technologies for U.S. Salt





# About SYSPRO



Established in 1978, SYSPRO is an industry-built Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution designed to simplify business complexity for manufacturers and distributors worldwide. SYSPRO provides an end-to-end business solution for optimized cost control, streamlined business processes, improved productivity, and real-time data analysis for comprehensive reporting and decision-making. SYSPRO is highly scalable and can be deployed either in the cloud, on-premise, or accessed via any mobile device.

What sets SYSPRO apart is an unwavering, sustained focus on the manufacturing and distribution sectors. Combined with a practical approach to technology and a passionate commitment to simplifying business processes, SYSPRO dedicates itself to the success of its partners and customers alike.

SYSPRO dedicates its resources to the advancement and improvement of the complex and changing needs of its customers. Recognized as a leader in customer service, SYSPRO has one of the highest customer retention rates in the industry.

SYSPRO's intuitive product features, business intelligence capabilities, and easy deployment methodology are unmatched in the marketplace. The depth of software functionality and targeted industry knowledge makes SYSPRO an excellent fit for a number of select manufacturing and distribution industries, including food and beverage, machinery and equipment, electronics, fabricated metals, automotive, and many more.

SYSPRO has more than 15,000 licensed companies in over 60 countries.

For more information, visit [www.syspro.com](http://www.syspro.com).

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