



# Hellers improve forecasting capabilities with iviis™

## Hellers

Christchurch based company Hellers are New Zealand's leading small goods manufacturing company producing over 80 types of sausages, bacons and hams. With around 500 staff over two sites, Hellers is one of the region's big employers. Over the past couple of years, the company has seen substantial growth and are continuing to expand and grow with exports soaring and the hold on the domestic market becoming more secure.

## Dealing with a rapidly growing company

With such rapid growth comes a struggle to keep up within the business, especially in the planning department where finished product demand and forecasting are managed. "As the business has grown, the planning team and systems that they were using, have had to evolve quickly to keep up with that growth" explains Supply Chain Manager Darren Lobb.

For Hellers, this has meant the creation of hundreds of different spreadsheets or systems to accommodate the new requirements as this has proved considerably easier than modifying existing systems or spreadsheets.

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There are two main issues with having information spread so widely. One, is that it is very difficult to consolidate the data and accurately analyse it. The other is the risk associated with data entry. If something is entered incorrectly, the trickledown effect can be amplified as the systems are not in place to identify or mitigate the errors. By mid-2014, Hellers decided that they needed to solve these planning issues to allow for further growth within the business.

## Easily consolidating data

Hellers worked with iviis to come up with a solution that would allow them to easily consolidate data from the multiple systems that exist within the business, and reduce the risks associated with data entry.



### Business Issues

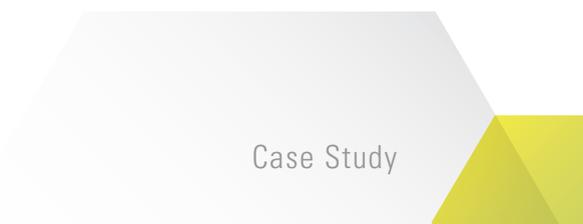
A rapidly expanding company meant that hundreds of spreadsheets were being developed that lacked any integration with each other.

### Solution

viisConnect™ connects all relevant planning systems to allow for data to be consolidated and presented in a consistent manner.

### Outcome

More time is able to be dedicated to forecasting and analysis of data outputs rather than spending all that time preparing and manipulating data.





A completely new system would mean a huge time and resource commitment from Hellers as all information would need to be transferred over to the new system and thousands of dollars of investments in existing systems would be lost. The difficulty of finding one system that could cater to production, finance and inventory also made this an inappropriate option.

Hellers have since implemented the Master Production Scheduling module of the viisConnect system which works alongside all of the current systems. It takes the required data from each system and manipulates and consolidates it to produce accurate, easy reports.

“Businesses have legacy operating systems and can spend a lot of money, time and effort trying to update those systems. Whereas iviis are able to say to you, ‘just leave the systems as they are and we will extract the information that we need out of those different systems’,” explains Lobb.

This allows information to be pulled from the forecasting, production, inventory and financial systems; and instead of exporting and manipulating the data in many spreadsheets, iviis automatically produces data that helps the planning team map demand and forecast for the future; all in a matter of minutes.

## More time for forecasting

Hellers see that this new system will be able to speed up processes for them as well as reduce the risks associated with spreadsheets. With a rapidly growing business, the planning team need to stay at the very front of change. If the time required to prepare and analyse data is high, they slip back from the front and lose a reliable standpoint for planning. viisConnect has allowed the team to spend more of their valuable time analysing and using the data instead of preparing the data.

Spreadsheets aren't the most reliable platform for storing and manipulating data, especially when dealing with large datasets. If there is an error in the spreadsheet it might not easily be seen and can cause errors downstream when you start using the information, either through a human miscalculation or a formula error. By being able to keep the spreadsheets to a minimum and not relying on them to consolidate the data, Hellers can reduce the associated risks, increasing the reliability of the data.

“This has also caused us to make sure we understand the forces of demand more clearly. It was important to make sure we were capturing all possible demand so that whatever we were planning to make, met the market. It's also caused us to review our processes to make sure that what we are doing makes sense and that we standardise any reporting or any sources of information and that it flows on through the business.”. “iviis are very willing to work with us and as we have been going through this process, we have been modifying and learning as we go,” explains Lobb.

By using viisConnect, Hellers are able to better capture their demand and accurately forecast for the future, making the most of a rapidly growing company.

iviis™ provide software solutions that help organisations know their business, now. For the manufacturing sector, the iviis™ supply chain management solution enables them to collaborate more effectively across their supply chain, helping increase efficiency, reduce costs and improve customer outcomes.

To arrange a consultation with one of our experts, visit [www.iviis.com](http://www.iviis.com)