

Summary

Customer

Ichor Systems, Inc.

Challenge

Global JIT supply chain to deliver efficiency savings and cost reductions

Solution

- Portfolio of 'C' Class components
- JIT delivery
- Complete, global supplier management
- Multinational stock management and holding
- Internationally consistent quality, delivery and pricing

Results

- 23 years of successful support
- 300+ managed parts
- 100+ discrete lines
- Financially significant inventory savings



Customer Challenge

Anixter is a supply chain partner to Ichor and provides JIT inventory supply to four of its major manufacturing facilities around the world: Austin, Texas; Portland, Oregon; Singapore; and Malaysia. With over 23 years of successful partnership, Anixter supplies more than 400 components to Ichor and manages the manufacturer's suppliers around the world. Anixter's integrated relationship with Ichor allows it to have greater control over product specification, design calculations, fastener selection, testing and quality control, adding value for Ichor and creating real cost and quality advantage for the company, plus, in turn, for its customers.

Ichor Systems is a leading, global designer and manufacturer of process tools, gas-delivery modules and chemical-delivery modules purchased by original equipment manufacturers for use in the semiconductor, light-emitting diode, alternative energy, data storage and flat-panel display markets. The company's products and systems are used to produce light-emitting diodes, microelectronic semiconductor chips, solar panels, superconductor wire and thin-film magnetic heads by enabling the precise application of numerous specialty gases, liquids and chemicals.

Long regarded for its world-class design, engineering, manufacturing and testing, with proven capabilities for large-scale integration and international reach, Ichor Systems is one of Anixter's most accomplished and experienced manufacturing partner. These combined capabilities enable Ichor's customers to outsource all noncritical elements of their tool design and production to the company, in order to focus their own resources on process and technology development.

Services in the Ichor Systems' portfolio include a turnkey process for full, outsourced supply, plus a range of specific services under the headings of machining, polythermal rod welding, plastic materials and special techniques, such as fusion. These capabilities ensure that Ichor is a world-class source for prototyping and assembly of full-scale production units.

Ichor Systems' engineering supports every stage of a product's life cycle, from concept to production. It offers both Class 100 and Class 10,000 clean-room facilities for customer-specified testing, assembly and integration of high-purity systems.

Quality assurance is vital and Ichor's manufacturing is committed to delivering the highest possible quality with superior performance and repeatable results. Its world-class engineering team creates test procedures that simulate end-User conditions in order to ensure reliability and production readiness at time of shipment. With an integrated, dynamic supply chain, the manufacturer can guarantee to support the ramping-up volume requirements of its customers' markets, worldwide.

"Just as Ichor Systems is the preferred supplier to a wide list of world-leading customers, so is Anixter the preferred supplier that we partner with to deliver our unmatched, global capability. As a manufacturing partner we support our customers to concentrate on their core business. Anixter allows us to concentrate on what we do well and we value this specialist supply chain expertise that supports us to deliver more to our customers."

Marc Knox

Director, Supply Chain Management,
Ichor Systems



Consistent Advantage

Beyond reliable, JIT, global delivery of materials, Anixter offers a standard, streamlined system for Ichor that operates around the world. From one software platform, the company can control the entire supply chain process and — most importantly — allow Ichor to capitalise on the economy of scale brought with global sourcing. Standard global pricing creates a consistent cost base for Ichor, regardless of individual order size, a significant competitive advantage for the company that creates predictability in a dynamic market.

Integrated Supply Partner

Ichor Systems works closely and collaboratively with its clients. Just as Ichor Systems offers a complete outsourced solution that allows its customers to concentrate on their own area of expertise, Anixter creates a similar opportunity for Ichor: as an integrated partner, Anixter supports the manufacturer with international JIT delivery, allowing Ichor Systems to focus on design and manufacture, without the complexity of component stock management. It's a winning strategy and one that has delivered significant advantage for Ichor.

Throughout its long and successful relationship with Ichor Systems, Anixter has supported countless process improvements and driven efficiency savings to help this manufacturing giant gain competitive advantage to share with its customers. Through inventory management processes alone, Anixter has delivered impressive savings per year, through reduced inventory requirements on site and easing the pressure of production-line resourcing.

This development strategy is continuous for Ichor Systems and Anixter is constantly engaged in improvement programmes. This has delivered optimised designs, improved speed to market and outsourcing of processes for its customers. Beyond just working with the manufacturer itself, Anixter also reaches out to support its suppliers, working with them to improve design and quality, plus sharing process expertise to create cost improvements for Ichor.

Global Capacity

Dynamic capacity and agility are essential for Ichor Systems in order to service its customers and its reputation has been built on its ability to gear up rapidly in response to its customers' market demands. This flexibility is mirrored by Anixter, which seamlessly supports Ichor to respond to the production needs of its wide customer base. With global presence, Anixter improves Ichor Systems' speed to market and extends the outsourcing scope that the company can offer to its customers.

Quality Counts

Quality counts in any business, but never more so than in the precise world in which Ichor Systems operates. Its production team strictly adheres to Operation Method Sheets and project-specific procedures which govern each step in its production process. Trained to ISO 9001, Anixter's team members work entirely within a quality culture and the supply chain expert shares its highly accredited testing expertise with Ichor Systems.

Quality not only counts for the component parts themselves, but also for the standard of delivery. For Ichor Systems, Anixter supplies just in time, delivering weekly or twice weekly, direct to manufacturing bins within the Ichor facilities around the world.



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