



MEISTERPLAN

ANCA
CNC MACHINES

ANCA

How ANCA Streamlined Capacity Planning and Enabled Visibility to Improve Decision Making with Meisterplan



Background

ANCA is a global leader in the manufacturing of tool and cutter grinders, specializing in factory automation and CNC grinding technology. Headquartered in Melbourne, Australia, the company operates in over 45 countries with approximately 1,000 employees. With a highly integrated engineering approach, ANCA designs and develops its own electronics, CNC controls, motors, and sheet metal components, ensuring complete control over product innovation and quality.

Michael Butler, Mechatronics Solutions Manager for new product development at ANCA, leads an engineering portfolio of 30 engineers. His team is responsible for hardware product development, working on projects that span from 12 months to five years. With such a large and complex project landscape, ANCA needed a structured way to manage capacity planning, synchronize project timelines, and improve decision-making around resource allocation.



The Challenge

ANCA faced significant challenges in capacity planning. Like many engineering organizations, they had more work than available resources, leading to difficulties in planning project timelines and aligning resource availability with product release cycles.

ANCA has relied on Microsoft Project for project management, but as the company transitioned to managing a higher number of smaller projects, their existing tools failed to provide the necessary visibility into interdependencies and resource allocation. Stakeholders lacked a clear understanding of project prioritization, often assuming that all initiatives held equal importance.

Additionally, capacity forecasting was limited to a three-month horizon, creating a reactive, short-term planning approach. The absence of a shared visualization tool resulted in inconsistent communication and uncertainty among decision-makers.

The Solution

Seeking a top-down approach to portfolio management, Michael Butler and his team conducted an extensive evaluation of various tools before discovering Meisterplan. Initially skeptical, he quickly realized the value Meisterplan provided in visualizing project timelines, prioritizing initiatives, and balancing resource constraints.

With Meisterplan, ANCA gained:

- **Enhanced Capacity Planning:**
The company extended its planning horizon from three months to 18 months, allowing for proactive resource allocation and realistic project timelines.
- **Clear Prioritization:**
Meisterplan's ranking system ensured that stakeholders could no longer classify multiple projects as top priorities, forcing more deliberate decision-making.
- **Visual Project Portfolio Management:**
Stakeholders could easily assess project sequences, capacity constraints, and dependencies in a highly intuitive interface, replacing the need for large physical Gantt charts.
- **Seamless Stakeholder Engagement:**
With a structured portfolio management approach, leadership teams could now make informed trade-offs, improving alignment on product roadmaps and launch cycles.



“The key quantifiable difference since we started using Meisterplan is that planning horizon has moved immediately from short term to long term, from 3 months to 18 months. And that creates more efficient communication, and better and more logical decision making.”

Michael Butler | Mechatronics Solutions Manager
ANCA

The Results

Within three months of implementing Meisterplan, ANCA saw tangible improvements in project visibility, decision-making, and stakeholder alignment. Key benefits included:

- **Increased Stakeholder Confidence:**
Meisterplan enabled a shared understanding of priorities, leading to fewer last-minute changes and more stable project execution.
- **More Efficient Meetings:**
Instead of debating project priorities, meetings became more focused on evaluating trade-offs and making data-driven decisions.
- **Better Resource Forecasting:**
With a structured view of resource allocation over 18 months, project teams could better anticipate workload distribution and avoid bottlenecks.
- **Improved Planning Certainty:**
The structured portfolio and capacity plan provided clear visibility into ongoing and future projects, ensuring stability in execution.

Through their own lean portfolio processes and with the help of Meisterplan, ANCA has transformed the way they manage their project portfolio, bringing clarity, transparency, and strategic focus to an increasingly complex development environment. By leveraging a lightweight, top-down planning approach, ANCA now has the tools needed to navigate resource constraints, prioritize initiatives effectively, and drive successful product innovation.



Looking Ahead

ANCA plans to expand Meisterplan usage to additional engineering portfolios within the organization, ensuring a consistent approach to resource planning and project prioritization. With a solid foundation in place, the company is well-positioned to continue its leadership in manufacturing innovation, leveraging their processes and tools to maintain efficiency, strategic alignment, and long-term growth.



“Our senior stakeholders have certainly seen the benefits from adding Meisterplan to our already existing processes. They now have an understanding of where things are at, where the bottlenecks are. We’ve even used it to justify bringing additional capacity into the business.”

Michael Butler | Mechatronics Solutions Manager
ANCA

Get in Touch



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