CASE STUDY #3: DATA RECONCILIATION & REPORTING AUTOMATION

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Client: West Midlands food packaging manufacturer
Industry: FMCG packaging
Company Size: 67 employees, £11.5M turnover
Project Duration: 5 weeks
Investment: £16,800

THE CHALLENGE

A packaging manufacturer operated three systems that required daily manual reconciliation:

- Warehouse Management System
- Enterprise Resource Planning system
- Customer-facing order portal

Operations manager and 2 staff spent 15 hours/week on:

- Extracting data from three systems
- Manual reconciliation in spreadsheets
- Investigating discrepancies
- Updating inventory levels
- Creating management reports

Problems:

- Inventory accuracy: 84% (industry target: 98%+)
- Stock discrepancies causing production delays
- Unable to fulfill orders due to inaccurate stock data
- Monthly stocktakes taking 8 hours
- Management reports 2-3 days old
- Annual labor cost: £18,000

THE SOLUTION

Phase 1: Automated Data Extraction (Week 1-2)

- Scheduled automation extracts data from all three systems
- Data standardization and cleansing
- Automated timestamp logging

Phase 2: Reconciliation Logic (Week 3-4)

- Automated three-way matching
- Discrepancy detection rules
- Exception reporting with root cause categories
- Automated variance analysis

Phase 3: Reporting & Alerts (Week 5)

- Real-time inventory dashboard
- Daily automated management reports
- Email alerts for critical discrepancies
- Weekly trend analysis

Technology Approach:

- Multi-system data integration
- Business intelligence and reporting platform
- Automated reconciliation engine
- Real-time alerting system

THE RESULTS

Efficiency Gains:

- Reconciliation time: 15 hours/week → 45 minutes/week (95% reduction)
- Report generation: Manual 3-day process → Real-time automated
- Monthly stocktake: 8 hours → 2 hours

Accuracy Improvements:

- Inventory accuracy: 84% → 97.5%
- Stock discrepancies identified and resolved same-day
- Production delays due to stock issues: Reduced 76%

Financial Impact:

- Annual labor savings: £17,100
- Reduced stock write-offs: £12,400/year
- Production efficiency gains: £8,900/year
- Total annual benefit: £38,400
- ROI: 5.3 months

Strategic Benefits:

- Real-time decision-making capability for management
- Improved customer service (accurate stock promises)
- Foundation for future warehouse automation
- Scalable solution as business grows