

# Integration with a manufacturing execution system delivers real-time labor tracking

## What is a manufacturing execution system?

A manufacturing execution system (MES) is an information system that connects, monitors, and controls complex manufacturing systems and data flow on the factory floor. The main goal of an MES is to ensure effective execution of manufacturing operations and improve production output.

An MES helps achieve that goal by tracking and gathering accurate, real-time data about the complete production lifecycle, beginning with order release and continuing until the product delivery stage for finished goods.

For employees who use an MES system, it is the epicenter of their work life. They use an MES to clock in and clock out, accept work assignments, view detailed work instructions, and report all necessary data about the jobs they are working on.

UKG AutoTime™ (formerly Kronos Workforce AutoTime™) sees an MES as a data collection client (timeclock).

## Why an MES solution?

Manufacturers who use UKG AutoTime with an MES solution can improve shop floor performance by providing the right information to the right people at the right time. MES systems support the creation of a paperless workflow system, providing the following benefits:

- More accurate capture of labor and material costs
- Increased quality, with corresponding decrease in rework and scrap
- Increased uptime
- Elimination of just-in-case inventory

An integrated solution allows a manufacturer to manage a paperless shop floor from a single point of access. Remember, UKG AutoTime sees an MES as a data collection client (timeclock).



## UKG AutoTime integration with MES solutions

### Integration versus interface

UKG AutoTime is integrated, not interfaced, with MES solutions.

- Interfaces are developed to send packets of data from one system to another. Interfaces can be run manually or set to an automated schedule.
- Integration delivers a single, synchronous data solution between two systems.

### Single point of access

When manufacturers integrate their MES solution with UKG AutoTime, the benefit is a single point of access: Shop floor employees can enter 100 percent of their manufacturing data into the MES solution and have the time and labor transactions sent in real time to UKG AutoTime.

### Real-time integration

UKG AutoTime forms the bridge between the shop floor and business systems that manage financials, procurement, and inventory processes. The real-time, two-way integration provides enhanced visibility into customer order status, accuracy of estimates, and the impact of issues arising from the supply chain.

Integration allows enhanced productivity, accuracy, and control over labor costs while providing an audit trail for required industry and government compliance reporting.

UKG AutoTime workforce management and labor reporting solutions work in unison with MES solutions to provide a real-time labor-tracking solution. Executives can receive accurate information about the organization's most important and expensive resource, its people.

## What are UKG AutoTime's MES integration options?

UKG AutoTime has an existing integration with iBAsE's Digital Manufacturing Suite ([ibaset.com](http://ibaset.com)).

### UKG AutoTime configurable integration

Configurable web services have been used to successfully integrate, on a customer-specific basis, with well-known enterprise resource planning (ERP) solutions.

**Note:** These configurable integration offerings require in-depth discovery and proper sizing for services delivery of a customer specific solution.

## Scenario using UKG AutoTime and MES

Contractor Mike interacts exclusively with an MES solution on the shop floor to quickly select his assigned work order and operation. From the point of view of UKG AutoTime, the MES appears as a data collection client (timeclock).

- **Data collection:** The MES doesn't know that Mike is a contract employee and doesn't know which home department he is assigned to or which cost centers he is authorized to charge time against. Mike incorrectly attempts to start work on a work order that is disallowed for contractors.
- **Real-time validation:** In real time, this transaction is immediately declined because UKG AutoTime validates that Mike is not authorized to charge time against the work order as a contract employee.
- **Policy enforcement and error reduction:** By validating this transaction in real time, UKG AutoTime enforces proper business policy, and errors are minimized.

**Note:** Had the transaction been valid, UKG AutoTime would have recorded the proper labor accounting and sent the data to the customer's ERP system.

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