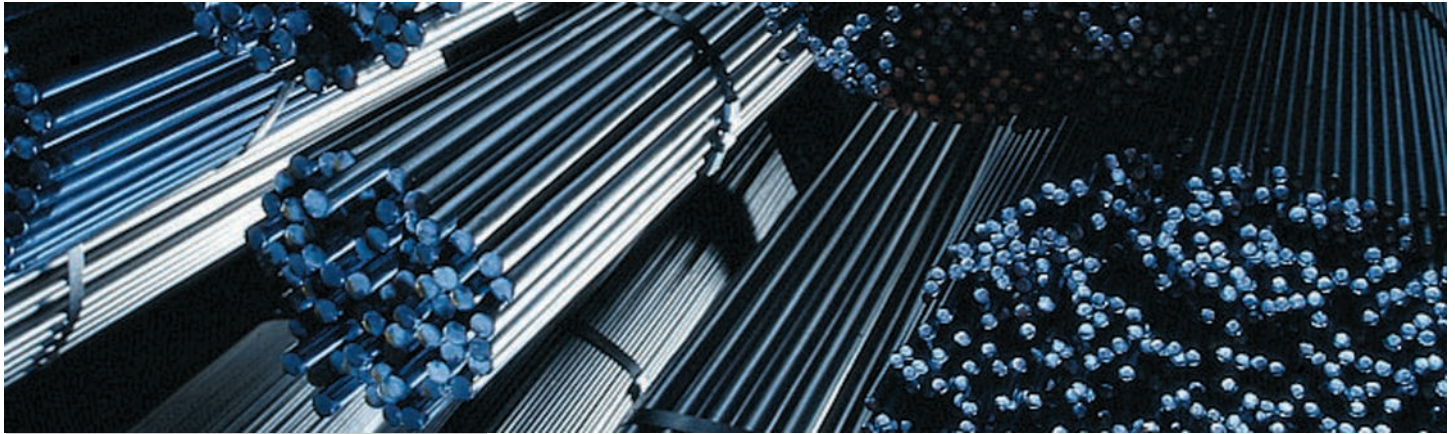# software solutions specific for the metals industry from
computer automation technology limited

Professionals in the specification, design and implementation of computer systems for the metals industry since 1983

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Barcoding and Shopfloor Automation

Does this sound familiar? Sales take a call from your best customer who wants to confirm that his order will be with him tomorrow, as promised. Your computer-system tells you that the works order has been printed and presumably that means the job is on the saw now. But has sawing actually started? How many pieces have been cut? Will the job be finished in time for the customer to receive it tomorrow? "Sorry, let me get back to you…" and the salesman has to go out into the works and find the works order by the saw and start counting pieces. And while he's out, the works order comes back to the office indicating that sawing is complete!

SM's shopfloor automation module is designed to remove the wait for paperwork to get back to the office, but allows real-time updates to the computer from terminals on the shop-floor. The terminals might be ruggedised PCs, typically with touch-screens, close to your production equipment, or might be hand-held devices connected to the computer-system via an RF wireless network. In both cases the terminals will have barcode readers so that operators don't need to type order numbers, or saw numbers, etc.

An additional benefit is that decisions about which job has priority on which machine, made by production-planners in the office, are communicated instantly to the shop-floor. An operator, finishing one job on a production resource, merely asks his terminal, "What's next?" and is informed of the job currently scheduled next on that resource.

Key Features

- Real-time update of the computer-system as events occur on the shopfloor.
- Get a better handle on how long jobs take, since the start and finish of each job is recorded as it happens; thus get a truer picture of costs and throughputs.
- Reduce paperwork, reduce delays.
- Record operators, shift-changes, machine downtimes, etc.