

Case Study Molins Tobacco Machinery

Online Stock Checking Facility <http://www.molinstm.com>

Background

Molins Tobacco Machinery is a global manufacturer of machinery used in the tobacco industry, and supplies aftermarket spares and other maintenance services. As part of their website, Molins Tobacco Machinery have an online stock checking facility for service engineers to obtain stock levels for spare parts prior to purchase, with the intention of being able to reliably inform customers of the likely lead time to repairing a machine.

This facility was originally developed in 2002 using proprietary technologies, and had suffered neglect due to a complex and costly arrangement with the previous suppliers. In addition to a complicated and outdated user interface, the existing system had a cumbersome method for importing stock data, adding a significant overhead for IT staff.

A new system was required to replace the existing system, solving its shortcomings, build on functionality and present pages in a consistent manner to the rest of the Molins Tobacco Machinery website, which had been updated in 2009.

MOLINS
Tobacco Machinery



Our Solution

We developed a replacement system that offers all of the functionality of the existing system, along with a range of new features and a contemporary, consistent screen layout. New features include the ability to search by the catalogue product code (rather than a re-formatted version the previous system required), user profile management, password change facility and a user data extract. Additionally, the solution facilitates the automation of stock data imports to reduce the administrative overhead of maintaining the system.

The replacement system was developed using the CodeIgniter PHP framework, allowing us to concentrate on the functionality of the application itself, with CodeIgniter providing the underlying system architecture and security. The user interface was developed in XHTML and CSS with some usability elements enhanced through the use of the jQuery JavaScript framework.

In selecting robust, established and well-documented frameworks, the new system was delivered within a short space of time and to a high standard.

Existing user data was migrated to the new system, after data cleansing ensured consistency and quality of the data that was migrated. The solution was then deployed on our Cloud Hosting facility, providing a scalable and cost-effective hosting platform for the Molins Tobacco Machinery website and online stock checking facility, backed by an around-the-clock technical support service.



“The transfer to the new facility went incredibly smoothly and we are delighted with the new system. Not only has it saved us a considerable amount of time, but our customers find it a pleasure to use as well. Our expectations were truly exceeded and continue to be by the service provided by ASD Solutions.”

Geoff Copeman, MIS Manager