

Computer Integrated Manufacturing Systems (CIMS): A Tool for Competitive Advantages

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Abstract

The tools applied to collect, organize, store, manipulate and exchange information may be regarded as having created the information asset, by giving strategic value to what was essentially a process. Obviously, information has been used to transact business. However, by applying technology, the process can be transformed into a "thing", information asset. How a firm uses the asset, largely determines its impact on innovation, profitability, efficiency, accuracy, timeliness, effectiveness, productivity, and most of all, competitiveness. A newly evolving technology, computer integrated manufacturing system (CIMS), is a very powerful weapon for firms to guarantee success by capturing competitive advantage over its competitors. CIMS is not a simple manufacturing technology, but a strategic approach which links technologies, corporate strategies and people through computer systems. CIMS provides competitive advantages for the firms by optimizing their resources and activities.

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