

# BCN

BOARD CONVERTING NEWS  
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## Board Supplier Has EDI Envy

Customer service personnel from a regional paper supplier were visiting Miller Container, an independent boxplant based in Rock Island, Illinois, when they made a surprising discovery. Dave Cline, the person in charge of managing roll stock inventory at Miller, was regularly receiving confirmations of roll stock shipments ahead of the supplier's own corporate offices. "I was just as surprised as they were at first," said Cline, "but since then, we've checked it out and found that the situation was the same for most of our other suppliers as well."

The secret to such speedy advance shipping notices is Miller's recent implementation of CTI's CorrTrac Inventory Management System at its plant, which utilizes an advanced Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system to streamline inventory and purchasing.

The benefits reach far beyond quick advance shipping notices, however: Efficiency is up across the board. Cline, also the Production Scheduling Coordinator for the corrugator, relates: "Our old computer system was more than 20 years old and could not provide actual time reporting. We relied solely on averages and not 'real' paper costs. Once an inventory was taken it took days to make all of the necessary adjustments, and it required an incredible number of man hours to accomplish." All that has changed since CorrTrac was installed.

"Efficiency has soared to new heights," said Cline. EDI capabilities permit Miller to track purchase orders and shipments with the click of a mouse. The number of man-hours to accomplish data management has been greatly reduced. Accurate data, including costs, are now available instantly, and the dilemma of tracking no longer exists.

Miller Container also uses CTI's CorrTrim and CorrLink modules, which, together with CorrTrac, have "transitioned our methods of gathering data for manual accounting, resembling the Dark Ages, to high-tech systems that resemble Space Age data management," according to Cline.