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How technology is backing UFlex's target to double manufacturing capacity

In conversation with ETCIO, Mudit Agarwal shares how automation and digital will help them achieve desired targets.



R Riya Pahuja, · ETCIO
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Over the last three decades, UFlex has earned an irreproachable reputation defining the contours of the 'Packaging Industry' in India and overseas. Since its inception in 1985, it has turned into a multi-billion company focusing on trust, value creation for customers, quality innovation and customer satisfaction. UFlex has grown from strength to strength with large manufacturing capacities of packaging films and



Mudit Agarwal, CIO, UFlex Group

packaging products providing end-to-end solutions to clients across over 140 countries.

The growth witnessed by UFlex couldn't have been achieved had it not been for its digital drive. The company is approaching digital in a

holistic manner, with every aspect of the business being transformed digitally.

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"Our digitization efforts on the Shopfloors are at three different levels. The very first is having core IT applications, which helps in the entire automation of finance, supply chain, procurement and invoicing," Mudit Agarwal, CIO, UFlex Group told ETCIO.

"The next level includes making the machines interact with certain points. For example, for the units produced, the data from the weighing machine automatically transfers to the IT systems instead of someone having to do it manually," said Agarwal.

The third level is through QRcode scanners. UFlex units have automated systems wherein the scanners pick up the information as the material progresses from one stage of production to another.



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Digital is a journey

Digital transformation is a process and you can't attain it in a day or even in a year, feels Agarwal. Moving forward in its digital journey, UFlex is already working on three additional projects that expands the digital purview beyond the shopfloor.

"We are in the process of implementing human capital management or HCM solutions. It's a cloud-based solution from oracle. We are yet to go live on this but we are working on it," said Agarwal.

Agarwal feels that post implementing this, the business will be in a position to have a holistic view of employees. While on one hand, it makes the records better and digital on the other hand it will provide intelligence for talent management or their performance reviews.

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Other two projects in line are Robotic Process Automation and leveraging CRM solutions.



Meeting management expectations

When a business expands, the questions are raised on various departments and certain expectations are set. Doubling up the manufacturing capacities in 5 years, the management has certainly raised the expectations from IT teams.

Talking about these expectations, Agarwal says that they are at two levels, one being operational and the other strategic.

From the operational point, Agarwal said, "Whenever the capacity is extending and new things are coming up, our IT systems should be able to wrap up to meet that augmented requirement at an operational level. Be it in terms of connecting, access the application or capacity augmentation."

"Strategic expectations come more from a perspective that if I am having the largest capacities made, how am I going to go about planning, supply chains, logistics and further putting analytics and intelligence on top," added Agarwal.

Agarwal personally is looking into how user behaviour and consumer psyche is changing with the change in events. And how will change require an IT intervention?

"Mobile applications have been around, people have been using it but they are for very specific requirements like raising requests and approvals. The question is can I start using a mobile device to carry out business transactions," he explained.

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