

Cutting Through the Chaos

How an automotive manufacturer eliminated cutting tool stockouts and gained real-time visibility—without disrupting production



In a high-volume automotive manufacturing environment, cutting tools are critical to keeping production lines moving. Even small delays or shortages can ripple into lost time, frustrated operators, and missed output targets. This customer needed a better way to ensure the right tools were always available—without slowing down the people who rely on them every day.

The Challenges

Delays from poor tool distribution

Supervisors manually distributed tools each morning, creating delays and no operator-level visibility.

Time wasted retrieving tools

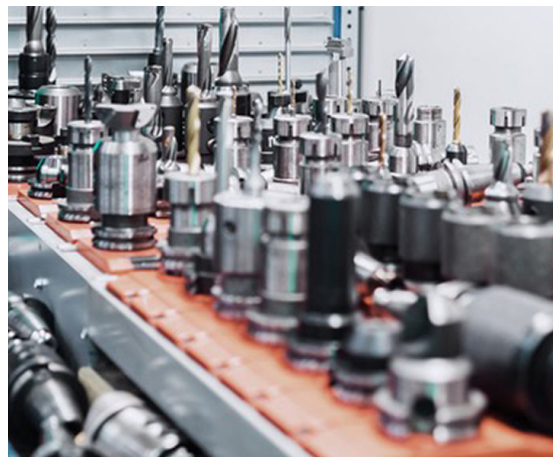
Walking to a central location and waiting for tools slowed operators and cut into productive work time.

Inaccurate inventory data

Tools in workshops were treated as consumed, skewing usage data, planning, and audits.

Manual ordering created risk

Delayed replenishment led to stockouts of critical items, while unused tools sat idle.



The Turning Point

Rethinking How Tools Flow

The customer understood that a smarter approach to handling cutting tools—tracking usage and availability—was essential. Success meant putting tools closer to operators, capturing accurate usage data, and eliminating the guesswork from replenishment.

The SupplyPoint Solution

To solve the problem, the customer implemented three sets of **SupplyPoint's 28-Level Intelligent Vending Solution**, pairing secure, point-of-use vending machines with SupplyPoint's inventory management software.

Cutting tools were moved out of the central crib and placed directly on the shop floor, close to where work happens. As operators access tools, every transaction is captured automatically—giving the team clear visibility into usage, accurate inventory levels, and automated replenishment with suppliers. The result is faster access to tools, fewer headaches for planners, and consistent production without stockouts.



Results That Matter



Zero cutting-tool-related production stoppages



Real-time visibility into stock levels and usage



Faster audits with reliable, trusted data



Stronger lean performance through actionable insights

This is what control looks like.

Let's talk about how SupplyPoint can deliver the same results in your operation.