Microsoft® Navision Axapta®

Microsoft Navision Axapta Master Planning

The Microsoft Navision Master Planning module streamlines your entire production process.

Key Benefits:

- Minimize lead times, control processing costs and ensure maximum on-time deliveries
- Detailed overview of inventory so you get the best decisions on purchasing or producing the right products at the right time
- Continual tracking, evaluating and re-planning based on changing demand for materials and capacity

Key features:

- Forecast scheduling using product forecasts
- Finite/infinite scheduling
- Sales order explosion
- Futures and action messaging

The Master Planning solution in Microsoft Navision Axapta uses data provided by the Axapta Trade, Logistics, Projects, Work Centers and Production Series to help you minimize inventory-carrying costs, and optimize product flow from suppliers, through production, to your customers.

Forecast Scheduling

The forecast scheduling feature in Axapta Master Planning uses product forecasts to project long-term needs for materials and capacity, giving you the ability to foresee fluctuations in demand and adjust your plans accordingly.

Master Planning allows you to simulate different product sales scenarios to obtain the most reliable picture of gross demand. This gives you a basis for negotiating better agreements with subcontractors, and for fine-tuning production capacity.

The ability to forecast more accurate production plans allows you to eliminate the need to stockpile inventory, while still meeting your customers' delivery demands.

Master scheduling

In the shorter term, master scheduling matches available capacity with demand based on current orders and production orders, a process that

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significantly streamlines the flow of materials through your company.

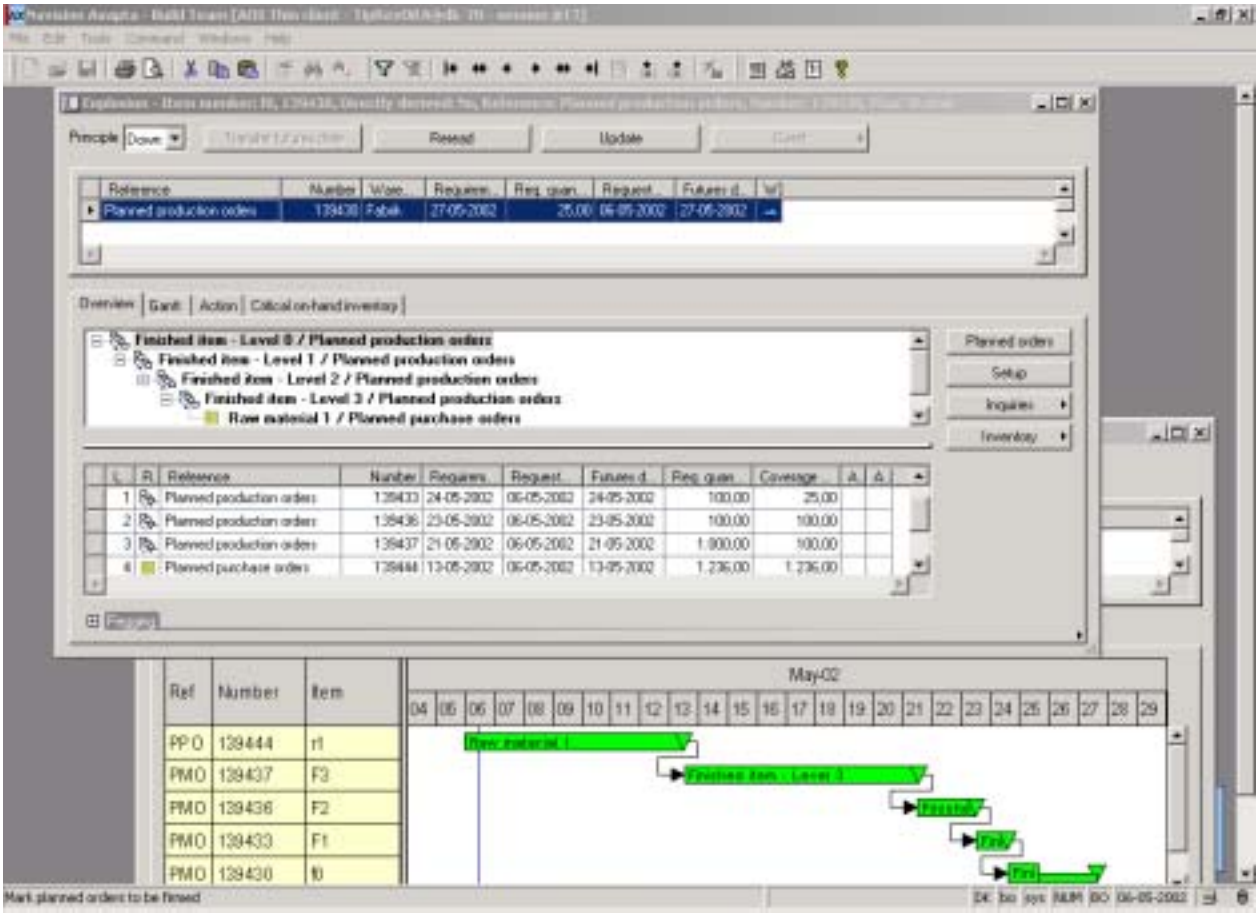
Axapta's high degree of integration allows you to include input from the forecast schedule into the master scheduling process. The resulting information gives a clear picture of purchase and production requirements based on current and forecasted sales.

Net Change

Master scheduling can be run in a fast, net change mode, where only changes since the last scheduling are included in the calculation. This means you can run master scheduling several times a day to get an up-to-date picture of the net requirements on a continuous basis.

Finite capacity scheduling

Finite capacity scheduling can be taken into consideration during the master planning process. Using data from the detailed job scheduling functionality in the Production III module, the Master Planning module can generate very detailed delivery plans which give much more reliable information by taking short-term available production capacity into account.



Use sales order explosion functionality to perform master scheduling on a single order

Sales order explosion

Master Planning has a unique sales order explosion feature, which allows you to perform master scheduling for a single sales order as the order is taken. This means Axapta considers the necessary requirements for purchasing and production at all inventory levels when making calculations, enabling you to promise your customer a reliable delivery date as you take the order.

Trade agreements

Master scheduling uses an intelligent logic when it searches for vendors from whom necessary items should be purchased. Depending on your priorities, you can set Axapta to find the vendor offering either the lowest unit price or the shortest lead-time for the item.

Vendor calendars

Master Planning can handle lead times in both working days and calendar days. This provides you with more accurate order dates, and therefore, reduced inventory-carrying cost.

Planned purchase and production orders

Master scheduling generates planned orders for subsequent approval, according to criteria set by your purchaser and production planner. You have the flexibility to set up your system so that planned orders propose futures and action messages that enable your company to better manage inventory carrying costs.

Futures and action messages

Futures messages compute the consequences to your company if raw materials cannot be supplied by a specified date. The system passes these delays on to sales orders, which gives you the power and flexibility to update delivery information to customers, select an alternative supplier, or reschedule production orders.

Action messages consider everything that is taking place within a period of time, and propose synergistic changes to purchase and production orders. If, for example, the delivery date of a sales order is extended to a later date, Axapta's unique action-setting feature will propose that linked purchase and production orders be postponed as well.

Time fence control

Time fences are guidelines that reduce the amount of time you spend performing routine tasks. Axapta has a wide range of time fence controls. You can set up time fences to: avoid running out of inventory; automatically create purchase and production orders from planned orders; explode bills of materials (BOMs) into component parts to calculate dependent demand; and calculate capacity requirements to name but some of the controls.

Time fence control also allows you to lock short-term planned orders, preventing Axapta from responding to fluctuations, and facilitating smooth and efficient functioning during the “freeze” period.

Coverage per warehouse

Axapta Master Planning can operate with any number of warehouses. You can set up each warehouse with individual parameters to ensure the right levels of safety stock and service at different locations.

Planned transfer orders

The Master Planning module is capable of handling requirements and inventory levels at multiple warehouses, because it can generate ‘transfer orders’ between warehouses. This gives you the option of doing purchasing for just one warehouse and fulfilling all other requirements in the company by transferring items from this warehouse.

Season controlled safety stock

Seasonal deviation in product sales can easily be taken into consideration when Master Scheduling fulfills safety stock requirements. This gives you greater ability to manage your inventory, which leads to the elimination of unnecessary on-hand inventory.

Automatic safety stock maintenances

Safety stock levels, which take desired service levels into consideration, can be calculated automatically based on historical data. This gives you the option to have safety stock levels automatically maintained based on past experience. This means you can avoid unnecessary inventory carrying costs and reduce delivery service levels due to inaccurate safety stock levels.

Static and dynamic master plans

The Master Planning module lets you use more than one master plan at a time. When using a multi-plan strategy, Axapta lets you perform online simulations and do ‘what if calculations’. This can improve the customer service level in relation to possible delivery dates, etc.

Contact your partner

To learn more about Axapta, contact your local Microsoft Navision Solution Center. They have the expertise necessary to meet your specific business needs.

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Data Summary Sheet

Key Features	Description
Easy to Use	• Intuitive layout and structure • User-adjustable menus, forms and reports • User-adjustable layout of main tables and journals • Windows commands incl. 'copy and paste' from and to Axapta • Direct access to main tables from journals • Advanced sorting and filter options • Built-in user help including an integrated manual • Option to mail and fax directly from Axapta • Application can be run in different languages
Multiple plans	• Support of multiple plans for forecast and master scheduling
Simulation	• Use multiple plans to simulate material and capacity requirements based on different conditions
Forecast scheduling	• Based on sales and purchase forecast • Gives you an overview of long-term requirements for purchases, productions and resource requirements
Master scheduling	• Gives you an overview of short-term requirements based on existing orders and/or forecast scheduling • The result is planned orders and net requirement
Coverage groups	• A coverage group can be attached to many items • The coverage group contains all relevant item related parameters
Coverage code	Choose between: • Manuel • Min/max • Period • Lot for lot
Time fences	Located on forecast plans and master plans • Coverage - how long into the future should we look • Explosion - how long into the future must we break down BOMs • Capacity - how long into the future must we take capacity into consideration • Freezing - how many days into the future should the existing plan be locked • Firming – period for automatic creation of PO and production orders

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Scheduling methods	• Finite scheduling or • Infinite scheduling • Detailed scheduling by hours and minutes • Scheduling by day
Planned orders	• Planned orders are the result of the master planning. They can be modified, deleted or accepted
Future messages	• Future messages flag orders that cannot be delivered on time. The future message is the earliest possible delivery date
Action messages	• Action messages are used to reduce inventory. It will suggest changes to existing orders and planned orders to: • Increase quantity • Decrease quantity • Postpone the order • Advance the order • Or a combination
Net requirements	• Gives you visibility over expected on-hand quantity over time. View by day, week or month
Sales order explosion	• Gives you the ability to break down a BOM item, and calculate an earliest possible delivery date based on route and incoming items
Constraints	• Used when selecting a vendor for a purchase order • Choose vendor based on lowest price or shortest delivery time

System Requirements

To obtain all of the features mentioned in this fact sheet, the following modules are required:

- Microsoft Navision Axapta 3.0
- Microsoft Navision Axapta Trade Series
- Microsoft Navision Axapta Trade Agreements
- Microsoft Navision Axapta Master Planning
- Microsoft Navision Axapta Logistics
- Microsoft Navision Axapta Production I

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