Complex Pricing, Quoting, Estimating Successes

Bookmar k 731.3



Mike Fairbairn

\$560 Million
Division, Engineer
ed Pumps, Valves,
Systems, Services
for Oil & Gas
Confidential Client

Grew Operating
Profit from \$14
million to \$120
million/year Throu
gh Disciplined
Sales Quotation
Process

SQP (Sales Quotation Process) Problems Prevented:

- Hidden warranty, In and Out, and other costs
- 3rd party commissions cost out of control
- Order taken from customer before diligence performed. Must tell customer no or raise price
- Negative cash flow
- Reduced major risks such as Liquidated Damages
- "1,000 page contract that gets signed, but not really read or understood"

SQP (Sales Quotation

Process.) Resulted in dramatic improvements in margin, forecast accuracy, change order payments. Big reduction in legal risks, "surprise costs" over 10 years. Average Order \$2.4-\$7 million. Average 500+ Orders Per Year. 30% Close Rate

SQP RESULTS:

- 50% ACCURACY IMPROVEMENT IN SALES PIPELINE, Revenue, Margin Forecast
- 5-10% MARGIN INCREASE
- 15%+ IMPROVEMENT IN GETTING PAID FOR CHANGE

ORDERS because tracked against better specification. defined as billable earlier in sales cycle, better baseline to enforce change order payment - 25%+ REDUCTION IN SURPRISE **COSTS** In first year due to reduced risk in Warranty, In and **Out, Technical Application and** Scope of Supply costs - SAYING 'NO' TO BAD **BUSINESS**, Negotiating Better Terms: Increased from near 0 to 3 big quotes per month sent back for negotiating improved terms - REDUCTION IN CATASTROPHIC **LEGAL RISK:** A single mistake on a small \$500,000 order can bankrupt the company. e.g. "A mistake with Shell will cost you \$2 million in a heartbeat" **SQP Key Lessons:**

- NEED, DEADLINES
 drove much of the
 success: Acquired
 and start up business
 units had no
 systems, critical
 deadlines, had to
 make transition as
 fast as possible
- Choice was between simple, PC based solution at \$100,000 per business unit and SAP/Oracle solutions at \$1 million+ per business unit
- First implementation
 was hard, difficult but
 resulted in
 blueprint that could be
 replicated for next
 seven. Critical issues
 that had to be worked
 through:
 - ltem Master
 - Chart of Accounts

	Division
	o Division
	financial
	rollups /
	consolida
	tions
	Standard
	Cost and
	Cost
	Accountin
	g
	 Bills of
	Material
	Taxes
	 Customer
	Managem
	ent
	Decided to use
	simple software
	because most
	difficult part was
	going from no
	automated system to
	an automated
	system . Chose to
	tackle this learning
	curve first, switch to
	more complex system
	later (turned out was
	not needed.)
	MRP component
	worked well
	• NO
	CUSTOMIZATION of
	software except for tax
	jurisdictions
	 Customizations were
	thoroughly
	documented to allow
	software to be
	upgraded. AVOIDED
	THE TRAP of
	undocumented
	customization
	causing extreme
	cost, delay of
	software upgrades
	 Capacity Planning was
	only component that
 	was never successfully

	resolved and standardized

Bookmark 3.7



Tom Ingram

\$750,000 Million Business Services Firm, Broker Confidential Client \$2.5 Million Savings, \$10 Million Sales Gain from Improved Pricing, Quoting, Estimating Process

Removed 250,000 Chances to Make a Mistake

Freed Up 63,000 Sales and Support Hours Per Year

Consolidation
Of Sales
Processes from
Nine
Acquisitions
Pays Off

Complexity Increasing

<u>Before</u> 200+ step process
<u>After</u> Reduced to 64 core steps <u>CLICK for</u>
<u>Case Study</u>

Summary of Key Optimized Actions for Existing Products (90% of Sales Activity):

- Post Promotion/Discount
 Analysis: Focused, disciplined, data based (no excuses). Promo/Discount sell what expected? Reconcile with trade funds system.
- Annual / Quarterly Promotion
 Planning with Customer: Plan
 joint calendar (on facts, not
 demands.) Build execution of
 shipment, stocking, promotion into
 plan with ACTION to confirm weak
 / at risk components. Promo,
 pricing concessions evaluated,
 agreed, signoff.
- Day to Day Promotion
 Execution: Monthly, weekly execution of plan and adjustments including Temporary Price Concessions, Ads, Displays, Major Promotion Execution, Discontinued Items.
- Promotion / Discount Request System, Other Systems: Self entered by customer or rep, minimum 5 day lead team, contract request minimum items, entered, approved. Contract available to customer on web site (as reminder). Details to other systems for setup. Final QA review.
- Selling to Distribution, End Customers: Selling takes place, pulls orders through, execution consistent. Reps enter into end customer systems.

New Product Introduction sin	nilar
but substantially more rese	arch,
diligence, test marketing jo	
with customer.	•
 "Did we make money on that 	
customer last year?" (Key	
question answered)	
∘	hite-
collar time	
tracking,	
services co	stina
 Customer service departmen 	_
dramatically improves work	
relationship with field busir	
units	
80% reduction in email in one	9
business unit	
 Clear on who performing wel 	I.
who not	,
 Improved Differentiation, 	
Perception of Value-Added	bv
Customers	•
Huge buy-in from system use	ers
because they helped design	
Excellence breeding	

Bookmark 3.13



Tom Ingram

Casualty
Insurance
Property
Replacement
Firm
Confidential
Client

Pricing, Quoting, Order Processing Reduced from 5 Days to 1 1/2 Days

75 Step Process Reduced to 40 Step Primary Process

60% of Price Quotes Handled by 40 Step Process, <u>CLICK for Case Study</u> See BEFORE and AFTER

possible and rewarded

 Orders between 15% and 25% gross profit skipped approval, executed immediately

excellence: Doing this well multiplied the efforts of other functions – saw improvement

- Cost of quoting and processing an order quickly identified as \$55. Immediately stopped taking orders with less than \$100 gross profit.
- Determined bulk purchasing not always best. Shifted to minimum quantity or drop ship
- Removed double entry into two systems, numerous problems, failure to balance
- Credit risk significant so accurate information prevented credit losses

		No Approval Required	 Payment on facts, not "who screamed the loudest" Cost of Errors: Demonstrated that one error cost the entire profit of an order – or more Made salespeople responsible for accurate pricing, quoting, estimating, data entry Removed four unneeded control steps for 60% of orders
Bookmark	CECO	Grew Organic	How Results Achieved:

902.1



Sam **Devens**

Environmental Air Pollution Control Technology,

Products And

Services

Sales 29% in Two Years, Overall Revenue by 10% to \$400 Million, while Increasing Profit 10%

Reversed 5% **Annual Organic Sales Decline**

70% of Sales **Engineered to** Order

- Simplified business systems, operational transformation, operating rigor
- Refocused on long term growth markets, three divestitures, two acquisitions.
- Upgraded talent throughout organization
- Sales club, incentives, special treatment of sales people (despite pushback from manufacturing and other parts of organization – decided results worth the friction)

Bookmark 902.2



Sam **Devens**

International **Battery**

Lithium-lon **Batteries And** Systems For Large Energy Storage

Private Equity Owned

Changed Sales Execution to "Value / Market **Pricing for** Strategic **Customers**"

Reduced Cash **Burn Rate By** 20%

How Results Achieved:

- Led thinking away from "technology - cost" focus to Vale
- Optimized operations, delivered cost savings

Bookmark 902.3



Sam Devens

Siemens Energy & Automation, Inc 70% of Revenues from Services

Improved Profit by \$100 Million in 2007, Grew to \$3.7 Billion in Sales, \$307 Million in Cash Flow, \$233M EBIT

Delivered \$3.9B Sales, \$290M EBIT And \$428M Cash Flow In 2008

Managed
Business
During 2009
Economic
Crisis to Within
1% Of PreCrisis Targeted
EBIT Margin

How Results Achieved:

- overarching business performance improvement plan
- new go-to-market benchmarks and organizational culture changes centered on customer value, leadership integrity, and disciplined execution.
- Solved Costing Data problem. Aluminum costs skyrocketing but costing data not keeping pace

Bookmark 902.4



Sam Devens

Siemens Factory Automation Sensors Formed \$100M
Factory
Automation
Sensors Business

Secured Major Customers: Metro, General Motors

Gained Foothold In Emerging Markets

How Results Achieved:

- Led major developments in RFID technologies for manufacturing and supply chain applications.
- •

Bookmark 902.5



Sam Devens

Siemens
Power
Distribution &
Controls
Division

\$700 Million, 3000employee North American division Top-Performing Business Unit For 2 of 3 Years, #1 In Customer Service

1.5% Market Share Gain

Increased Margins In Down Market

How Results Achieved:

- Segment-specific strategy / sales / marketing plan
- Developed / introduced several new product families
- Restructured in response to 9/11 and dot-com downturn.
- Relocated 25% of US production to Mexico resulting in \$30 Million cost / productivity savings, \$45 Million additional savings identified

Bookmark 902.6



Sam Devens

Thomas & Betts

\$2 Billion
Electrical
Products,
HVAC
Equipment
And
Transmission
Towers

Lighting,
Premise
Wiring,
Cabletray,
Utility
Divisions,
Power
Connectors,
Electrical
Products,
Meter Sockets

Led \$400 million unit with 14 plants through 4 Acquisitions, Growing by \$240 million.

Grew Component Sales 12% While Maintaining Margins

\$4M Profit
Improvement While
Reorganizing \$100
Million Steel
Structures Unit

How Results Achieved:

- Decisive Leadership
- Moved Business Strategy and Sales / Marketing away from Cost-Plus toward "Value / Market pricing"
- New Product Innovation
- Targeted Marketing
- Operational Consolidation and Shift To Low Cost Manufacturing.
- Credit Losses From Growth Overemphasis: Fixed problem of credit losses to 2nd largest customer

Bookmark 902.7

General Electric

Product Manager For The \$150 Million Electrical

How Results Achieved:

- Improved Competitive Position
- Major Customer Wins



Sam Devens

Electrical Distribution, Switchgear, Controls, Nuclear Power

Switchgear Business

~\$10 Million in Incremental Sales, leading to \$100M In Related Equipment Sales

Value
Pricing /
Marketing
Shift for
Integrated
Electronic
Solutions

- Working Across Boundaries
- Shift The Value Approach To Integrated Electronic Solutions
- Led Newly Integrated Business Team And New Product Development Group To Regain Leadership In Power Management Systems

GREAT STORY, WHERE HAD BIGGEST IMPACT?

How can we get to Value / Market based pricing - Move away from Cost-plus pricing?

- Often all you know is cost
- E.g. "Last time we bid a 32% markup and lost the sale. This time we'll bid 27%"
- Must think really hard about:
 - Competition every aspect, will they cheat?
 - Will customer pay a premium to work with us? How much? Why?

LEARNED THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO FOCUS ON

- How can we get to Value / Market based pricing - move away from cost-plus pricing?
- 2. How do we get to Organic growth away from Acquisition only growth?
- 3. Are we Growth focused or "Cost-out / Productivity" focused?
- 4. Is Costing Data Right? Hidden costs?
- 5. Is Engineered to Order (Long cycle) or Make to Stock (Short cycle) business better for us? What is Right Mix?
- 6. What Culture / Mindset /
 Leadership Issues Really
 Matter? Where focus?

- 7. What Sales Competence Issues Really Matter? Are Actionable? Where focus?
- 8. Where Can I Find More Margin in Engineered to Order (Long Cycle) Sales? (Reduce costs, keep margin?)
- 9. Is Distribution Channel Earning Their Pay? Do We Understand Our True Cost of Sales? Can We Rework / Improve Significantly?
- 10. What disciplines must be in place? How will Leadership reinforce and sustain, preventing snap-back to BEFORE state?
- 11. How get to cooperative, high performance leadership?

903.1



Hal Turner



\$100 Million Subsidiary

Complex Video Solutions for Law Enforcement \$5 million savings From Error Reduction in Complex Orders

Reduced Material Errors from 15% to 5% of Orders over 10 years

Disciplined
Sales
Accountability,
Costing Results
in Big
Improvement
without Big
System Costs

Project Quotation

Problem: Sales not knowing proper parts to sell, results in order errors, too many parts shipped, air shipments, often giving away parts for customer satisfaction and preventing implementation delay. Sales not incented to do order right, would move on to next sale.

Solution: Immediate: Strong discipline, accountability for sales people. Saying NO to bad business. Increased customer service rep numbers, skills, systems. Laid groundwork for Quoting System to prevent misquoting. Serious effort in labor cost rollup and loading.

 Average complex orders over \$20,000, grew to 500 orders/year. \$5 million+ savings over 10 years.

Bookmark 906.1



Ed Matthews

Alcatel-Lucent

\$9 Billion
Americas
Division,
Advanced
Cell,
Microwave,
Optical
Networks for
Telephone
Carriers

\$27 Billion in Proposals Created,\$9 Billion in Proposals CLOSED in One Year

20% Reduction in Proposal Creation Time

Maintained 50%+ gross margins

17% Increase in Orders from New Customers / Products Two Years

15% Of Revenues From Services On Average

25+% Of Orders From Services On Average

Accomplished through DISCIPLINED MANUAL SYSTEM - BETTER FOR THIS SITUATION.

Did not waste time on IT solution.

How Results Achieved:

- Insisting that Sales' strategy is sound, discounts, concessions necessary (not just path of least resistance)
- Strictly controlled Sales organization's desire to cut price, just close sale and move on
- Controlled and authorized "give-aways" to aid closing sales
- Right people reviewing the costs are right level of detail
- Sales accountable for setting correct expectation. E.g. price not final until tower site survey completed
- Documented, comprehensive approach so all signoff (sales, manufacturing, engineering, installation, business unit, client, legal)
- Big Reduction in Surprise Costs: (e.g. warranty, un-estimated components/services, bad costing data)
- Reduced Legal risks (e.g. standard contract and legal at the table for review)
- Got Paid for change orders instead of absorbing
 - Saying NO to Bad Business

Bookmark 906.2 Alcatel-Lucent (Nokia)

Led Pricing Team for \$3 Billion AT&T U- **How Results Achieved:**

- Insisting that Sales' strategy is sound, discounts,



Ed Matthews

Advanced Wireless, IP, Microwave, Optical, Fixed Access, Installation, and Professional Services for Telecom Carriers located in North America Professional Services verse and \$3.5 Billion Verizon FIOS Wins

Penetrated Billion Dollar Client Programs

Improved
Margins 2%
through
Disciplined
Price, Quote,
Estimate
Process

A DISCIPLINED MANUAL SYSTEM WAS BETTER IN THIS SITUATION.

Did not waste time on IT solution.

concessions necessary (not just path of least resistance)

- Strictly controlled Sales organization's desire to cut price, just close sale and move on
- Controlled and authorized "give-aways" to aid closing sales
- Right people reviewing the costs are right level of detail
- Sales accountable for setting correct expectation. E.g. price not final until tower site survey completed
- Documented, comprehensive product / service pricing approach so all signoff (sales, manufacturing, engineering, installation, business unit, client, legal)
- Big Reduction in Surprise Costs: (e.g. warranty, unestimated components/services, bad costing data)
- Reduced Legal risks (e.g. standard contract and legal at the table for review)
- Got Paid for change orders instead of absorbing
 - Saying NO to Bad Business

Bookmark 905.1



Duncan Jones

Client Name Witheld to Protect Confidentiality

\$12 Billion Manufacturer of Electronic Connectors \$5 Million
Savings + Profit
Over 5 Years
from Solving
Complex
Estimating,
Pricing, Quoting

Key: Set Tiers of Quote Due Dates Based on Complexity, Dollar Size. How Results Achieved: Details on request

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E.g. Easy Quotes
Due in ½ Day,
Medium in 2
Days, Complex in
5 Days, Very
Complex in 10
Days.

Labor Savings
Came from Not
Expediting
Everything – 80%
Of Quotes Follow
Standard Path,
Freed Up Time
for More Sales

Bookmark 907



Lori Davis

Johnson &
Johnson
Medtronic
Cardinal Health
AT&T
Microelectronics
Siemens
Texas
Instruments
Bell Labs
IBM

(Clients and employers over long career)

Complex Pricing, Quoting, Estimating Successes:

Reduced Errors That Eat Up Margins: Eliminated Electronic Device Failure Rate Due To Improper Gate Thresholds

Reduced Surprise
Costs through Defect
Reduction Program
Which Tripled Yields
For Memory Product

Pricing Model Updated to Show Actual Project Cost

40% Margin
Improvement from
eCommerce Solution
Permitting High
Volume Sales Direct
to Customer

How Results
Achieved: Details available
on request. Lori is a
special case – has been
implementing these
systems for decades.

Lori's experience demonstrates how many areas, functions and systems are involved in solving the Complex Pricing, Quoting, Estimating Problem

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Eliminated double entry of Orders for Dielectric Material

Made Orders Visible to Sales Reps

Bookmark 908



Susan Matthews



\$4 Billion
Manufacturer
of Electronic
Audio Video
Control
Systems

6% Margin Improvement in 12 Months from Solving Complex Quoting, Estimating, Pricing Problem

Reseller Confidence Won Back by Restoring Confidence In Quoting / Delivery System

Close Ratio Improved from 1 / 5 to 2 / 5 for \$10,000+ Orders in 18 months

Forecast Improvements Gave Operations 80% Confidence In What to Build / Buy

Increased No
Discount / Low
Discount
Sales: Changed
Comp Plan From
100% Revenue to
Revenue + Margin

Obsolete Inventory Reduced from \$90 million to \$20M through improved Forecasting and Sales of Slow Moving Inventory

How Results Were Produced, Some Keys: PROBLEM:

- Comprehensive quotation process overhaul needed to eliminate hidden pre-sales / non-approved discounts (margin erosion), finance audit issues for discount approvals, delays in entering orders due to pricing issues and SKU availability.
- Sales team and channel partners lost confidence in negotiated price approval or product delivery on time **SOLUTION:**
- Automated quote system implemented with focus on SKU availability, forecasting, tiered confidence rating, audit trail on discount requests, emphasis on fulfillment as promised
- Gave sales channel a system they had confidence in: What skus are available? What is margin? Will all key parts needed for sale / installation available for project schedule?
- Prevented miss-shipments
- Reduce steps with change orders
- Protected margins and quick shipment during the Discount Request process
 - Automated tiered / rapid approval of different discount levels

"Customer Win-Backs": Reduced frequency and expense win-back discounts.

Disciplined
Discount Process
with Transparency
to Finance and
Audit

Early Cash
Collection and Up
Front Collection
Improved

Bookmark 909



Neal Cardone

Emerson
Automation
Solutions
Electronic
and
Mechanical
Automation
for Electric
Utilities, Oil &
Gas, Energy

Includes results from previous employers Operating Profit Increase by 2.5.%, Eventually from 24% to 28% (personally led)

Reduced Quote Lead Time from Six Weeks to Eight Hours for Configure to Order, Engineer to Order Products

How to Keep Margins High: Learned When Possible, When Not

Reduced Product Development Time from Two Years to One Year (avg).

E.g. Seven Product Iterations and Out The Door As Production Part In 4 Months while

How Results Achieved:

- Banned use of older, legacy, high volume, low configure product development system, required product development system to match low volume, highly configured growth / higher margin products requiring rapid config by customers
- Decreased staff 20%
- Increased productivity 25% by rearranging workflow, prioritizing
- \$10 million sales gain with Marketing Safety Products to Indian Oil & Gas companies, plus big reduction in accidents
- Pulled through \$15 million in sales by redesign of flagship product
- How To Keep Margins

High: Learned possible to keep margins up if can deliver on time, provide Support, Other value add - e.g. specifications, training, instructions online, available. If cannot deliver on time and provide other value margins will spiral down. Hardest part: Convincing senior management that a product, on its own technology, cannot justify it's price.

	Maintaining Hazardous Rating Formal Screening, Qualifying of Sales Proposals – Reduced Time Wasted	- Restructured configure to order, changed personnel, dramatic shortening of lead times - Consolidated product line after excessive acquisitions - Six Sigma, Continuous Improvement
	IT Barriers To Rapid Quoting And Sale: Required Key System Rework. Had To Get Tough, Demand Resolution	•