



Algeco transforms its operations to secure contract from the Ministry of Justice.

Executive Summary

In early 2023, Algeco contacted FixFirm for help to secure a contract from the Ministry of Justice. The project involved the construction of Rapid Deployment Cells that are built off-site then transported to existing prisons to quickly increase capacity with minimum disruption on-site. But the existing production capacity was not adequate, pushing Algeco to make the decision to relocate an old factory and establish a new one, requiring a comprehensive setup of supplies and production infrastructure. Together, FixFirm and Algeco took an open approach to understanding the criteria of the contract, then used those insights to generate a solution that would effectively condense the procurement processes to obtain contract standards. By collaboratively working with Algeco, FixFirm implemented a structured **five-step plan covering scoping, collaboration, mapping, implementation, and ongoing management**. The results were impressive, with stock ready for use by the deadline, dynamic usage tracking, transparent stock arrangements, and flexible procurement. Algeco successfully met contract criteria and achieved efficiency, overcoming time constraints and ensuring project success.

Problem

Algeco faced complex setup requirements that could impact their ability to meet the deadline for their contract with the Ministry of Justice. The project involved relocating and establishing a new factory, managing a new workforce, optimising the factory layout, and accommodating changes in product specifications. To address these issues, Algeco partnered with FixFirm, who implemented the **SlickStock system** to streamline processes and ensure optimal stock management. FixFirm's comprehensive 5-step plan—from scoping and collaboration to implementation and ongoing review—enabled Algeco to efficiently meet their project goals, eliminate stock discrepancies, and secure the contract. This proactive and tailored approach ensured Algeco's operations ran at full capacity within two weeks, positioning them for future growth and adaptability.

The best way to prevent downtime? A reliable just-in-time supplier.



Solution

To address these challenges, we implemented our SlickStock system, which focuses on proactive planning and providing tailored service to our clients. Our approach prioritised understanding Algeco's unique needs and delivering a swift response to meet tight deadlines. **SlickStock, developed to enhance efficiency in off-site and modular manufacturing, was key to this solution.**

Our proactive planning ensured we exceeded Algeco's expectations by rapidly addressing their requests and requirements. Leveraging our extensive experience and industry knowledge, coupled with the positive results from a previous setup in Cannock, Algeco chose to partner with FixFirm. We provided expert advice on optimal stock levels and usage patterns, and assisted in creating a comprehensive product portfolio tailored to their needs.

This collaborative effort not only streamlined Algeco's operations but also ensured they met their project goals efficiently and effectively.



Implementation



To implement our solution for Algeco, we introduced a structured 5-step implementation plan designed to **streamline processes and optimise resource allocation**. This comprehensive plan served as a roadmap, guiding our clients through each phase of the project, from initial planning to final execution and review.

Step 1: Scoping Process

We began by identifying the specific areas and deliverables Algeco wanted to achieve. Given a blank canvas, we worked closely with Algeco to determine the products they could source from FixFirm, aiming to become their primary supplier.

Step 2: Collaboration

We brought in expert, innovative input from our experienced team, drawing on past projects and proven strategies. Algeco needed a flexible system that could adapt to changing stock levels, and we tailored our approach to meet this requirement.

Step 3: Mapping Process

Next, we designed and planned a bespoke solution, emphasising the importance of SlickStock's branding to highlight its reputation as a reliable stock management system. Using LEAN principles and industry knowledge, we developed a customised KANBAN solution for Algeco.

Step 4: Implementation

We installed a clear and visible system to ensure a smooth transition to a more efficient way of working. This included new racking, signage, bins, a cleaning station, a consumables cabinet with trays and labels, and adding part numbers to products. A two-bin system was established in most areas. Leveraging project management software from previous setups, we ensured nothing was missed and sped up the installation process.

Step 5: Ongoing Review and Management








Maintaining high-quality service through continuous communication was crucial. FixFirm made weekly visits, adhering to the Kaizen principle of continuous improvement, to adjust stock profiles as production ramped up. We dynamically added new products to the range as needs evolved. When there was a change of stores manager early in the project, the SlickStock system saved significant time. Usage data and reporting systems allowed us to adjust stock levels to cover maximum throughput without excessive inventory.

Results

By partnering with FixFirm and implementing the SlickStock system, Algeco achieved impressive results. Stock was ready for use by 15th November 2023, and within two weeks, operations were running at full capacity. Dynamic usage figures were made available, providing detailed insights into weekly consumption and allowing for precise stock management.

Working competently to get results for Algeco, FixFirm:



-  Adjusted and maintained stock levels over an intense 12-week program
-  Set up 109 products on the system
-  Restocked 1017 product lines
-  Shipped and replenished 5 tons of goods
-  Saved large amounts of cardboard waste by off-site recycling
-  Eliminated hassle and reduced time spent placing multiple orders weekly for Algeco
-  Increased productivity, saving the time equivalent of one full-time employee managing stock

The transparent stock arrangement ensured that Algeco was only charged for the stock actually used, providing assurance that they always had the correct inventory on hand. This flexibility allowed Algeco to make necessary adjustments without overcommitting resources, ensuring they only purchased what was needed.

As a result of FixFirm's proactive planning and effective implementation, **Algeco successfully met their contract criteria with the Ministry of Justice.** The streamlined processes enabled them to overcome significant time constraints, complete the factory setup efficiently, and achieve a highly productive and efficient project outcome. This collaboration not only ensured operational success but also positioned Algeco for future growth and adaptability.

"I could be confident they were going to sort their stuff out which really helped me because I could get the whole production line up and running. Charlie was always willing to make the changes and do what we needed. **Working together was a real pleasure. Seriously appreciate your help.**"



Contact our expert team to find out how SlickStock can help in your environment.

Supporting facts about the industry

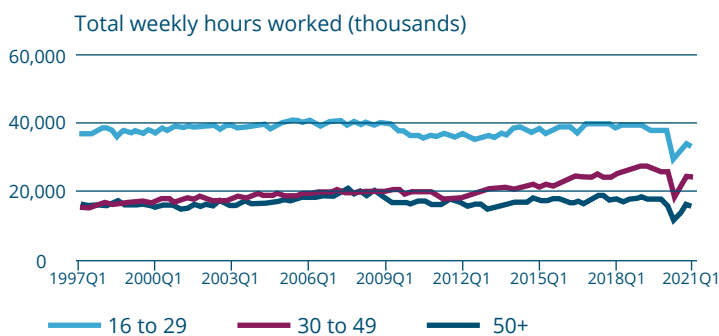


1. A greater proportion of the construction industry's expenditure on goods and services has moved towards purchasing services and away from purchasing materials.



2. Average productivity levels in the construction industry have remained consistently below the UK average and have grown more slowly until recently.

Total weekly hours worked per quarter by age group, construction industry, UK, Quarter 1 (January to March) 1997 to Quarter 2 (April to June) 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics - Quality-adjusted labour input

3. The number of hours worked by workers 50 years and over has increase substantially, while for younger workers there is little growth.