

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Unique software capabilities help auto manufacturers out-perform competitors

Automotive

Infor Automotive experts answer FAQs about the distinct features of Infor solutions

Investing in modern ERP solutions provides agility and helps maintain relevance in today's rapidly changing landscape. As connected, autonomous, shared, and electric (CASE) vehicles gain traction, software will play an increasingly important role in helping companies adapt to changing business models. Now is the time to prepare and invest.

Start with careful consideration of your options. Infor® solutions offer many distinct advantages. In this document, Infor industry and product experts answer frequently asked questions about Infor products, pointing out unique features.

For automotive manufacturers

Q: What is Infor® CloudSuite?

A: Infor CloudSuite™ Automotive is a single-instance, industry-specific, multi-tenant cloud solution that provides scalability, agility, and functionality that is frequently updated, so it stays current with industry and technology trends. It also features built-in multi-site/intercompany capabilities and fully integrated financials. One solution contains all the functionality needed, making it simpler to train your business users and eliminate disparate systems or silos of data.

Q: There are many point solutions in the industry, add-on modules, and apps for specific functions, like warehouse management, product lifecycle management, and supply chain management. It's a challenge to integrate these with the core ERP. How does Infor address this challenge?

A: One end-to-end solution solves those potential integration issues. Infor CloudSuite Automotive is a fully integrated solution with all the capabilities a typical automotive company needs. This means the information from every department or business unit rolls up to one highly reliable view of the business, from the business ledger to customer orders and inventory. One solution also means complete visibility, no silos, and no data discrepancies, making analytics more accurate.

Q: But what if I have some third-party legacy solutions I want to keep? How does that work?

A: Infor OS, our highly flexible cloud operating platform, seamlessly connects services to provide a robust technology framework for the entire business ecosystem. This applies to your existing applications or other third-party solutions you would like to connect to the Infor ERP.

Q: If we deploy your cloud solution out of the box, are we forced to use generic reports and workflows?

A: Automotive-related features and functionality are built into Infor solutions. This includes automotive-specific KPIs and reports. Rest assured, the solution is highly complete and industry-specific, architected by people who have worked in the industry for decades. In fact, CloudSuite Automotive is the only modern cloud-based system certified by Honda NA in the past 10 years with “no exceptions”, an indication of the solution’s maturity and industry relevance.

Q: We continue to face shortages of skilled workers. How can you help?

A: Our powerful people solutions such as Infor Talent Science® employ patented algorithms. These help match talent with optimal roles, thereby increasing employee satisfaction and retention. An intuitive interface enables a great employee experience and helps create a positive work environment.

For automotive OEMs

Q: We have complex processes and mixed-mode manufacturing needs. How does your solution accommodate distinct workflows?

A: Infor offers advanced capabilities that are easy to use and are easy to personalize to your workflows. Operational features include valuable functionality, such as:

- **Shop floor operational technologies (OT)** can be managed, supporting deskless workers, front-line managers, and team leaders who need to track activities and use of resources, including workforce scheduling and management.
- **Assembly Sequence Control**, a unique capability, enables highly customized flow manufacturing and sequencing of every feeder line and supplier within and outside the plant.

Q: We need to collaborate with other suppliers and track use of parts and components. Can you help with this?

A: Infor offers a global supplier collaboration platform. This tool helps with supplier onboarding, quality management and supports auto industry-specific supplier EDI communications (Supplier Exchange).

Q: To support our Internet of Things (IoT) strategies we need to store a vast amount of data. How do support this and how secure is it?

A: Infor CloudSuite Automotive offers all the advantages of a cloud solution, including elastic storage, agility, speedy deployment, and a Data Lake where the vast amounts of data collected from IoT sensors can be stored, consolidated, and available for analytics. Infor solutions run on the AWS® cloud platform and are highly secure.

For tier suppliers

Q: We struggle with accurate forecasting demand as it fluctuates drastically. How can you help?

A: Infor solutions include analytics to help forecast demand. This includes forecast management and a sporadic/slow moving stock algorithm in demand forecasting (e.g. used by a large OEM's after-market division). We also offer an integrated financial and operational planning and forecasting suite (Planning 4.0).

Q: We have very broad shop floor needs. Can you support them all?

A: You need to be flexible, so your software needs to be flexible too. Infor solutions are EDI-enabled and include a Manufacturing Execution System (MES) for end-to-end manufacturing process capabilities. The solutions are highly flexible and can support mix-and-match, multiple auto industry production methodologies including job shop, assembly sequence control, repetitive, and just-in sequence.

Q: We are a supplier and rely on collaboration and communication with the manufacturers we support. How do you help?

A: You need to speak language as your partners. Infor provides a global supplier collaboration platform to help with quality management and auto industry-specific supplier EDI communications (Supplier Exchange).

Q: As we keep pace with rapid new product introductions (NPI), we need tools to manage the process. Can you support this?

A: Product innovation is always a priority—and often a challenge. Infor Product Lifecycle Management for Discrete is a solution that fully integrates to CloudSuite Automotive and helps your organization manage the lifecycle of products, from design through testing, compliance check points, and the launch to customers. It helps you keep pace with the new products, accessories, and new components needed for modern vehicles, including electric vehicles.

Q: How long will it take to migrate to the cloud? We're worried about downtime.

A: This is an understandable worry. No organization can risk prolonged downtime. Because Infor CloudSuites include last-mile, industry-specific functionality, deployment is easier and faster than you might think. All the specific industry capabilities you'll likely need are already built-in, so you won't need cumbersome modifications. Infor also speeds the process even more by offering implementation accelerators especially built for automotive companies. The accelerator gives you a head start on setting up forms, report queries, and typical ledger categories, along with suggested mapping for migrating existing data. We make it as simple and fast as possible, being at your side along the way.

Conclusion

These are just some of the questions asked by automotive companies, OEMs, and tier suppliers. You may have different questions or other specific needs. For more details on Infor Automotive solutions, visit our [website](#) where you'll find brochures, videos, and customer case studies.

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