



Inside Manufacturing: Powered by the OpenEdge Platform

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Executive Summary

Manufacturing doesn't pause. Because when production stops, revenue stops. The systems behind orders, inventory, planning and traceability must run *every time*, without drama.

The Progress® OpenEdge® platform powers many of those core execution systems. It is the system of record and the operational logic that keeps manufacturing moving.

This paper explains why manufacturers modernize by building on the OpenEdge platform rather than replacing it, how innovation (data and AI) connects securely to OpenEdge operational data and what to do next.

Inside Manufacturing: The Layer That Can't Fail

Production lines run continuously. Materials move through plants, across regions and between partners without interruption. Orders are placed, fulfilled and shipped in tightly coordinated sequences. Every system involved must work without lapses or lags.

In this environment, technology decisions are not driven by trends. They're driven by operational risk, predictability and the ability to support production without disruption.

For decades, the OpenEdge platform has been a solid part of that foundation. It powers the systems manufacturers rely on to manage orders, track inventory, coordinate production and meet customer commitments.

As expectations evolve, many manufacturers are now evaluating how to extend the OpenEdge applications they've built their business on, without increasing risk to day-to-day operations.

Manufacturing Systems Are Built Over Time

Core manufacturing systems are not created in a single project or merely designed—they're evolved over years of real-world complexity, shaped by real production needs, edge cases and hard-earned operational experience.

What starts as order management becomes intertwined with inventory, pricing, fulfillment logic and customer-specific rules. Planning ties to supplier lead times, substitutions and constraints that generic software rarely anticipates. Compliance adds traceability requirements that must be followed precisely and repeatedly.

Over time, these systems have become more than software. They become a reflection of how the business *actually runs*. That's why replacing core systems is rarely a clean swap. It's an attempt to rebuild accumulated business logic under pressure, with risk to uptime, throughput and customer commitments.

The OpenEdge platform fits this reality because it was designed for it. It enables systems to evolve and become more precise over time, while maintaining stability. As a representative from FDM4, a long-time Progress OpenEdge partner serving the apparel and promotional products industries, put it when asked what they like most about the Progress OpenEdge platform: "I'd say long-term stability. The OpenEdge [platform] continues to keep up with all the modern applications."

The Value the Platform Brings to the Manufacturing Industry

While the platform is often not visible to the outside world, it is deeply embedded in the day-to-day execution of manufacturing operations. It sits behind the processes that facilitate orders being entered correctly, priced accurately and fulfilled according to customer requirements. It tracks inventory—not just at a high level, but at the level of locations, lots and availability, facilitating production to have *what* it needs *when* it needs it.

In production environments, OpenEdge systems help coordinate the timing of materials, labor and processes. They support scheduling decisions that account for real constraints, not ideal scenarios. When conditions change—and they often do—the system adapts because the logic reflects how the operation *actually* works.

Across the supply chain, the OpenEdge platform connects manufacturers with suppliers and distributors, managing the flow of information that keeps everything aligned. It checks that commitments made upstream and downstream are supported by accurate, current data.

In regulated industries, the platform plays a critical role in traceability and consistently must be delivered. It does by letting manufacturers track materials and components through each stage of production, linking them to finished goods and ultimately to customers. When audits occur or issues arise, the system provides a clear and reliable record of what happened and when.

Thus, the platform has proven its value in this environment over decades of continuous, real-world manufacturing operations.

Why the OpenEdge Platform Is the Backbone of Manufacturing

Over time, OpenEdge systems become tightly aligned with the business—not just in terms of data, but in terms of behavior.

The logic inside these systems reflects years of decisions: how orders are prioritized, exceptions handled, substitutions made when materials are unavailable and customer-specific requirements overridden by standard processes.

This logic is not generic. It is specific, and it is valuable. Attempts to replace these systems often underestimate this complexity. On paper, it may look like functionality that can be replicated. In practice, it involves rebuilding a large number of interconnected decisions that have been refined over time.

This is where the metaphor of vertebrae supporting the spine comes in. They all must be in alignment to support the weight of the body; or in this case, the

operational processes need to happen chronologically and linearly to deliver the production of goods on time and correctly.

This is one of the main reasons manufacturers continue to invest in the OpenEdge platform, rather than replace it. It already contains what they need and continues to perform.

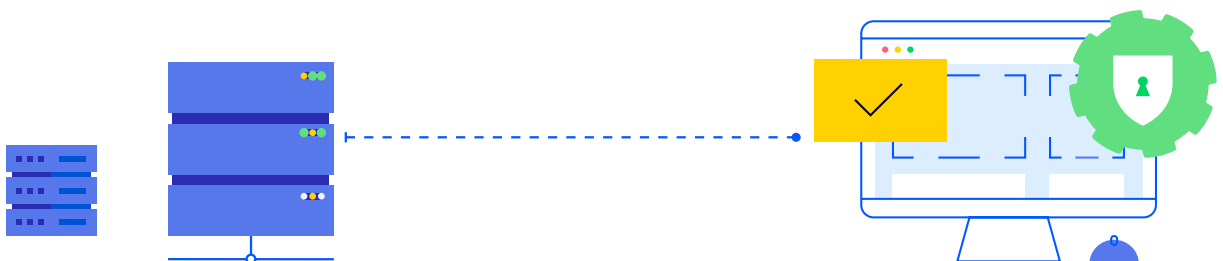
Stability That Supports Change

One of the defining characteristics of the platform in manufacturing is that it allows change without introducing instability.

Manufacturers are constantly adapting when introducing new products, onboarding new suppliers and responding to shifting customer and regulatory requirements. These changes affect the systems behind orders, inventory, planning and production, but they cannot come at the expense of uptime or execution.

The OpenEdge platform supports this kind of change in a controlled way. For example, [Progress® Application Server \(PAS\) for OpenEdge](#) can help manufacturers support more modern application delivery patterns while preserving the underlying business logic already tied to production, inventory and order workflows. This makes it possible to extend existing systems and support newer interfaces or services without replacing the operational logic that the business already depends on.

The [Progress Professional Services](#) team can also support manufacturers as they plan and carry out upgrades or architecture changes, helping teams move forward with greater confidence in continuity and operational control. This ability to evolve in place is critical. It allows manufacturers to modernize selectively, while maintaining continuity in the systems that keep the business running.



Real Operational Impact

The impact of the OpenEdge platform is best understood through the outcomes it supports. Production stays on schedule because materials are visible and accounted for. Inventory is trusted because it is updated in real time as transactions occur. Orders move through the system without manual intervention because the logic accounts for the necessary conditions and exceptions.

When disruptions occur—and they always do—the system provides the information needed to respond quickly. Whether it is a supplier’s delay, a material shortage or a change in demand, the data is already connected and available. Customer commitments are met because the system enforces the processes required to fulfill them. Over time, this consistency becomes part of how the business is perceived.

These are not isolated features, but the result of a system designed to support operations at a fundamental level.

A real-world example of this trust in action is FDM4, a longstanding OpenEdge partner supporting manufacturers with ERP, warehouse and e-commerce systems, who onboarded a 500-user enterprise customer with **zero unplanned downtime** during go-live. The result: stable performance and a platform that’s ready for future innovation. [Read the case study.](#)

Extending OpenEdge Capabilities

As manufacturing evolves, organizations need to make operational data more usable across the business, support newer application experiences and create a practical path to modernization without disrupting execution. In this model, the OpenEdge platform continues to serve as the core system of record and execution, while surrounding capabilities help extend what manufacturers can do with the data and processes already in place.

One example is [Pro2 SQL](#). Manufacturers often need operational data available beyond the transactional system itself—for reporting, analytics and broader downstream use. Pro2 SQL can help replicate OpenEdge data into SQL environments—making production, inventory, order and traceability-related data more accessible for analysis while preserving the database’s transactional core. This

gives teams a way to broaden data use without having to replace the systems that run day-to-day operations.

Another example is [Progress® Application Server \(PAS\) for OpenEdge®](#) for OpenEdge. As manufacturers modernize applications around core systems, they often need to support newer delivery models and more flexible application architectures. PAS for OpenEdge can support more efficient, stateless application patterns, helping organizations extend existing OpenEdge applications while keeping core manufacturing logic stable.

This same approach also creates a stronger foundation for analytics and AI-related use cases. When operational data can be accessed in controlled ways and existing systems can be extended without disrupting execution, manufacturers are in a better position to add new capabilities while staying grounded in authoritative operational data.

These capabilities build on the strengths of the platform and reflect a modernization approach that preserves what already works, while making it easier to expand how operational data and applications are used.

What the OpenEdge Platform Means Overall to the Manufacturing Industry

Manufacturing depends on systems that are reliable, consistent and aligned with real-world operations. So the platform needs to support the processes that keep production moving, inventory accurate and customer commitments intact.

It has also proven that it can evolve without losing what makes it effective. That is why manufacturers have come to rely on it.

It is not just *part* of their technology stack—it is a *foundational* part of how they run their business.

Next Steps

If you're running manufacturing operations on the OpenEdge platform, the question is no longer whether to replace your systems. It's how to modernize safely and extract more value from what you already rely on.

Consider these next steps:

- Schedule an [OpenEdge modernization assessment](#)
- Explore [manufacturing customer success stories](#)
- Learn how [AI connects securely to OpenEdge](#) operational data



Learn more about the Progress OpenEdge platform today.

About Progress Software

Progress Software (Nasdaq: PRGS) empowers organizations to achieve transformational success in the face of disruptive change. Our software enables our customers to develop, deploy and manage responsible AI-powered applications and personalized digital experiences with agility and ease. Businesses of all sizes get a trusted provider in Progress, with the products, expertise and vision they need to turn AI disruption into a competitive advantage. Millions of developers and technologists at hundreds of thousands of organizations depend on Progress every day. Learn more at www.progress.com

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