U. S. Steel Inventory Control

Overview
The PSU Steel Consulting Team has focused on working closely with the U. S. Steel Research and Technology Facility located in Munhall, Pennsylvania. This facility is in charge of producing samples of steels that undergo several process and testing methods. Once a sample is finished processing, it is stored in an inventory until further research is needed or it is removed from inventory if there is no further usage.

Objectives
The main objectives of this project were to:
- Analyze the current inventory process for the facility.
- Research and compare different inventory control system software.
- Determine the top software's.
- Recommend to U.S. Steel the implementation of the one inventory control system that is most suitable for their research facility.

Approach
The main problem that the Team encountered was the absence of an automated inventory control system that could track all the samples of the facility in a general database. Routinely, engineers were labeling their samples with markers, and keeping track of their inventory by manually updating the data and storing it on several Excel worksheets in project folders in the Research computer network. This resulted in difficulty to keep these worksheets constantly updated, finding their original location, and identifying which samples were disassembled into smaller ones.

Outcomes
As a solution PSU Steel identified the Top Inventory Control Software's, which include WASP and Zap-IT. Both software have been compared against multiple other suggested programs and have proven to be the top choices that will help provide the tools to solve the current problem. WASP has the ability to keep track of parts when broken down, assign location to specific samples, and upload your current Excel spread sheet to the company's database. However, the team is aware that there are some specific parts that cannot be tagged with barcode stickers which is the reason ZAP-IT is also recommended. This software has the ability to laser tattoo a barcode which is crucial for those samples that undergo process that could potentially damage a label.

Whether it is decided to simply apply WASP or ZAP-IT separately, or invest on implementing both, the Team urges US Steel to verify our Report in order to make the most accurate decision.