In an increasingly automated world, the construction industry has stayed relatively manual. Machines simply can't replicate the level of precision and technique required to install building systems; however, Egan Company's U.L. 508A Panel Shop has found one way to use automation to its advantage.

Precision, speed, and safety are the cornerstones of any successful panel builder. Whether for an in-house job or a customer, Egan's goal is to deliver a product quickly and correctly – the first time. And that's why Egan's panel shop implemented the ModCenter, an automated modification tool that provides fast, clean cut holes in each control panel.

Shop professionals previously measured, drew, and cut enclosures by hand – taking up to four hours per panel. Although this is a time honored way of building panels it is not efficient and leaves room for human error or injury.

By allowing for multiple clean cutouts and back panel drilling/tapping tasks to be completed all at once, the machine improves the overall quality of each control panel.

Egan's Panel Shop wiremen program the ModCenter to cut each panel per customer specifications. This machine frees up a lot of time for wiremen to work on other aspects of the projects, and get panels out the door much quicker. Egan estimates it does the work of nearly two people.

BY ELIMINATING THE NEED FOR WIREMEN TO MANUALLY MEASURE, DRILL, TAP, AND PROCESS, THE TIME FOR EACH PANEL IS REDUCED TO ABOUT 30 MINUTES – 87% LESS THAN IF DONE MANUALLY.

Once specifications are programmed, it can be saved as a template for future use – making repeat orders or modification of standard equipment even faster. Delays and waste are greatly reduced, and the risk of injury associated with manual modifications is virtually eliminated.

"This tool enhances Egan's already excellent safety program, by reducing the risk associated with cutting and drilling into a panel with power tools," said Jeff Hawthorne, Egan Company Senior Vice President. "We appreciate the efficiency of this machine, but we appreciate the increased safety it provides the shop even more."

With this new addition to the panel shop, Egan is now able to be more responsive to customer's needs and produce more consistent products with a promotion of greater safety.