# Enterprise Technology for Parts Distributors





#### Parts Distribution: A Multibillion Dollar Sector

- Whether they're supplying parts for aircraft maintenance; selling items to heating, ventilating and air-conditioning technicians; or shipping parts to consumers, parts distributors play an important role in the equipment maintenance supply chain.
- In 2022, the U.S. aircraft parts distribution industry is worth \$54.8 billion and growing at a rate of 2.8% annually.
- Auto dealerships sold about \$74.5 billion in parts in 2021.
- Parts distributors are continually rethinking their competitive positions and working to navigate an increasingly dynamic marketplace.

Sources: IBIS World, Statista

## Dealing with Manual Processes and Legacy Systems

- Historically, parts dealers have used thick, phonebook-like paper catalogs to manage their inventory.
- Employees may need to flip through multiple books to find the current version of a part that a customer is requesting.
- Distributors also must manage complex pricing, back-order and availability scenarios in an environment where constrained supply chains and lengthy lead times are common.
- Companies with older, industry-specific enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems and disparate software solutions must use spreadsheets, email and other manual means of moving data among these systems.





#### Meeting Industry-Specific Needs

- Original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) regularly update their products and their related parts, and part numbers.
- Parts distributors must manage a lot of superseding items, which occur when an OEM replaces an existing part with a new one that has a different part number.
- Distributors must frequently update their systems to reflect these replacements so they don't sell the wrong part to a customer.
- Keeping up with these changes requires a unified ERP system plus an integrated parts supersession management application.

### **Automating Key Processes**

- The Crowe Parts Distribution Accelerator for NetSuite automates various processes for companies that sell through the aftermarkets of their primary OEM suppliers.
- The Crowe Parts Distribution Accelerator is built for NetSuite and helps align the distributor with its end customer.
- It offers prebuilt application programming interfaces (APIs) for order creation, order lookup, inventory lookup and invoice copies.
- The Crowe Parts Distribution Accelerator also manages:
  - Back-order release policies based on value, days available, paired parts and customer consolidation
  - Freight policy management
  - Automated fulfillment strategies
  - "Best price" pricing and promotions logic

