

6 Tips for Automation on a Budget

CLOUD-BASED SYSTEMS

Cloud-based MRP/ERP systems like MRPeasy offer a cost-effective way to streamline operations without costly hardware. They scale with your needs, managing inventory, production, and orders. For tailored support, consider lean manufacturing consulting.



LOW-COST AUTOMATION TOOLS

Affordable automation like PLCs and robotic arms can boost efficiency and reduce errors. With a consultant's help, start small, focusing on key tasks first.



PHASED AUTOMATION

Small manufacturers can ease into automation by starting with the most time-consuming tasks, adding more as budget allows. This approach reduces risk and allows for adjustments.



OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE

Open-source tools like LinuxCNC and OpenPLC offer small manufacturers powerful, cost-free automation for CNC and control systems, supported by active user communities.



GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES & GRANTS

Government incentives and grants can make automation affordable for small businesses. Explore local and federal programs, like those on the SBA's website, to fund your projects.



EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION COLLABORATIONS

Partnering with local universities and tech schools gives small manufacturers access to research, fresh expertise, and automation-focused internships or collaborations.

