The idea of a Manufacturing Execution System originated in the 1980s and since then it is constantly evolving.

Nowadays the functionality of a MES is described by the combination of three functional scopes. Those areas have to work hand in hand to create a high performance MES and enable a well-timed and effective manufacturing control.

* Production:
  + Production data acquisition: record order an person related times and quantities
  + Machine data acquisition: manage machines and other resources,
  + Operation data acquisition:
* For personnel: time recording, time management, personnel resourcing planning, wage calculation etc.
* For quality assurance: production inspection, complaints management, testing, measurement data acquisition etc.