

## Success Story SAP - B-COMM for R/3 ERP

LSW Maschinenfabrik GmbH, Bremen/Germany

### Faster, better, and more flexible: Process optimization with PDC

After division of labor and specialization for many years, processes in companies are again seen as a whole. The transparency of processes results from correctly captured actual data. Companies which control their processes computer-aided, must also organize their PDC accordingly, if they want to handle processes as fast and efficient as possible. A company which achieved a process optimization with PDC and thereby increased its flexibility, is LSW Maschinenfabrik GmbH in Bremen, Germany.

The LSW Maschinenfabrik GmbH is a world-wide known and prestigious company which belongs to the IWKA AG group in Karlsruhe, Germany. The extensive product range reaches from complete assembly systems for engine and transmission assembly, over automation mechanisms for the assembly of steering systems, brakes, axles and clutches, up to measuring and testing tools for these products.

All car manufacturers with big names are LSW customers: Audi, BMW, Daimler Chrysler, Ford, GM, Jaguar, Opel, Porsche, VW including numerous suppliers. For Ford e.g., LSW is "global supplier", and thus one of five suppliers of assembly systems, who may supply world-wide. It's no wonder that the company - founded in 1982 - developed rapidly and achieves an annual turnover of approx. 55 million Euros with over 220 employees today.

In order to increase competitiveness and to tighten project development and project implementation, the management has decided in 1998, to initiate a SAP R/3 system, where also suppliers have remote access. Planned from the very beginning was the establishment of a new PDC system, which was supposed to replace an old system. The demands on the SAP system and on the PDC were high and could not be realized in standard. This way, a parallel run of project/special parts and standard production parts should be possible. As a pilot customer in small and medium-sized businesses, LSW was directly supported by SAP Walldorf. There, a special solution was developed, so the system recognizes the parts correctly and handles them accordingly. Despite these special developments, the R/3 system was implemented within only 14 months. In June 1999 all modules were switched productive at the same time.

#### PDC for the control of all current projects

The implementation of PDC (including Time & Attendance) was carefully prepared. First of all the goals and concrete expectations were formulated.

In the sector Time & Attendance, employees should be able to get information about their working time, their current overtime, remaining holidays etc. at the terminals. The objective was to relieve the personnel department.

The PDC should ensure the continuous control of all projects and make all necessary data per project, internal order and per cost center online available. This concretely meant, that the working times in production should be booked onto the project structures, e. g. carry out feedbacks onto PSP elements, cost centers/activity types, internal orders and spare part orders. A complete and continuous proof of working times was



*"We have considerably increased our transparency and we permanently receive all important information."*

*"LSW now knows exactly how much an order costs. The PDC led to a process optimization and saves us a lot of time because we can avoid errors. And time is cash!"*

Michael Braun-  
Commercial Manager



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required. In order to minimize errors, the data input for employees should be as fast and simple as possible. "We were looking for a flexible system which co-operates optimally with SAP R/3", comments IT manager Mirosław Wengrzik. It also should be able to be connected with the planned access control.

After several offers had been requested, just a few suppliers remained, due to the very complex requirements of LSW. LSW's management decided in October 1998 in favor of the system solution of Thede Zeit und Leistung GmbH in Bremen, Germany. Thede, a well-known company and Kaba Benzing partner, is specialized in Time & Attendance and supports more than 7,000 customers in Northern Germany. Suggested was a PDC subsystem, which collects data via programmable Kaba Benzing terminals of the type Bedas 95 60, and passes data on to the SAP system via the communications software B-COMM for R/3 ERP. "This solution convinced us, because it fulfilled our specific needs and we already had good experiences with Kaba Benzing terminals and Thede. With Thede Zeit und Leistung we have a competent partner locally, which ensures extensive service", explains Wengrzik.

#### Continuous proof of all hours incurred

Before the system had been installed, first of all the terminals had to be programmed accordingly and software adjustments had to be made. In early summer 1999, 7 Bedas terminals with Legic reader were installed at central sites within the manufacturing area and employees were trained in the new system.

The terminals have a network connection and are connected to a NT server via Ethernet. Since June, employees book their working times onto the projects or cost centers. The respective job is started when the working time gets punched in. This job runs until the employee makes a modification (e.g. a comprehensive, spanning activity booked on a certain cost center) or punches in a new job. This way, a continuous proof without interruption of all hours incurred is created. The employees' working times are flexible and are based upon the current demand. Since January 2000, the collected attendance times are now also transferred to the HR module for payroll calculation.

#### Saving effect: Time is money

At LSW, the system runs well and brought many advantages to the company. "We have considerably increased our transparency and we permanently receive all important information. We can localize weak spots immediately and intervene fast. This way we became faster, better, and more flexible", summarizes the commercial manager of LSW, Michael Braun. "PDC enables the continuous control of our goals - comfortably at the display without time-consuming investigating in the company."



Anwenderbericht

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