

Success Story

Success Story KGS Keller Geräte & Service GmbH



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Rüdiger Engler
Commercial Director
KGS Keller Geräte & Service GmbH



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An integrated system increases transparency and security

Development in civil engineering is closely associated worldwide with the name Keller.

The company is one of the recognized market leaders and solves demanding tasks in the areas of foundation and excavation technology and in the area of preserving existing buildings. KGS Keller Geräte & Service GmbH is a manufacturer and service provider to all companies of the Keller Group for the new development, further development and

manufacture of special civil engineering equipment.

Keller Group plc, which is listed on the London stock exchange, is one of the world's leading civil engineering companies, with more than 6,000 employees on five continents.

With an annual turnover of some EUR 2 billion, Keller has been offering the entire range of special civil engineering services, from the identification of building ground to environmental technology, on the world market since 1860.

From its establishment in 1860 until today, Keller has committed itself to offering the highest standard of design and to continually developing its technology further. A modern machine factory has developed out of the original smithy in the town of Renchen in the Baden region of Germany. The factory employs more than 120 staff. Ideas to further develop the foundation engineering technologies are implemented here. The resulting equipment safeguards the technological competitive edge of the Keller Group.

Support frames, drilling and injection equipment, deep vibrators, mixers, agitators and tools are manufactured. In addition, the company also takes on a number of services for the Keller subsidiaries such as the repair of devices and machines and the dispatching of spare parts.

Wanted: international full-service provider with substantial SAP expertise

When the company management decided to introduce a new ERP system with SAP, a new system for access control, time and attendance and shopfloor data collection was also sought at the same time. Up to then, access control had only been done via keys. With time and attendance, there was no link to the ERP system and in the industrial sector the working hours were still recorded manually via time recording sheets.

The shopfloor data were also collected manually. «The existing procedure was too time consuming and was to be replaced with an electronic system,» explains project manager Kruno Baletic, the operations manager at KGS Keller. We were looking for a sub-system certified by SAP with connection to the SAP modules HR, PP, PS, PM. «We wanted an international supplier for hardware and software, with SAP experience,»

emphasizes Rüdiger Engler, the commercial director at KGS. «SAP should be the lead system because we only wanted to maintain the master data once in SAP.»

Ultimately, they opted for Kaba as a close SAP partner with more than 1,300 SAP installations worldwide. «What convinced us was the fact that the Kaba system runs almost invisibly in the background and supplies the data automatically to the corresponding SAP modules.»

The schedule for the introduction of the ERP and the sub-system of Kaba was extremely ambitious:

11 SAP modules in nine months, access control, time and attendance and SFDC starting at the same time in the whole company at the two sites in Renchen and Berlin. A challenge that was successfully mastered with the support of consultants of the SAP Intelligence consulting house and Kaba.

Protection through a system with online and standalone components

In the area of access control, the task was to determine how the individual areas could be protected in an expedient and effective manner. Several buildings had to be included, for which cabling for an online access control system would have been difficult. We therefore decided to fully exploit the options presented by Kaba exos and to combine online access control with standalone components. For outside perimeter protection, online readers were installed at the main gate, the main entrance and at the access point to the administration building. At the production halls, for which cabling would have become too costly, Kaba c-lever standalone components were used.

Kaba exos manages the entire system and the entire authorization management. Each employee is assigned a time-dependent authorization profile, depending on the areas that he or she may access. His or her rights are on his/her Legic chip. However, these are limited to a particular period of time and regularly have to be revalidated at a validation terminal. This validation mechanism ensures that it is not only possible to block lost or non-authorized media immediately in the online system but that this can also be done in the standalone components. This enhances the security concept substantially.

Like the KGS employees, external employees have also received a Legic key fob and are integrated into the system. Like all the others, they book their working hours at Kaba terminals. These times are the basis for the time sheet.

In the SFDC precise allocation of the times to projects

SFDC terminals have been installed in the production halls for the recording of attendance times and the shopfloor data.

All employees have since booked their working times, contract, maintenance and project data at these terminals. With the electronic recording of the working hours, the data for the payroll accounting are automatically calculated and manual intervention in the process is no longer necessary. The maintenance of the shift plans and/or time models is done entirely in SAP so that the specifications from the company collective wage agreement and the company agreements can be implemented with little effort with the booking via the Kaba system.

In the area of SFDC too, attention has also been paid to ensuring that data recording depicts the processes easily and correctly.

After the «In» booking before the start of work, the orders to be processed are started separately again at the start of work by stamping the order but can be automatically ended with the «Out» booking at the end of the working time, without the processing end for the order having to be recorded separately. This reduces the input steps and saves time. Group work is also recorded. Several employees simultaneously or subsequently here for one or several work steps. In addition, the modules multi-machine operation and multi-order processing are used, as several employees regularly work together on one job or a worker operates several machines at the same time. Thus, machine times can be distributed accordingly when producing with several machines.

The run times of the machine and the operator's processing time are calculated as a proportion of the number of running machines and orders and then booked for the orders. With multiple order processing, in which two or several orders are processed by one person on two or several machines; the working time is then distributed linearly. Break times are automatically subtracted according to the SAP working time planning.

The data are then incorporated into the respective SAP modules PP, PS and CS. «We now have a precise and especially prompt allocation of the times to individual projects,» says Kruno Baletić, explaining the benefits of the new system. «In the past, accounting could only be done on a weekly basis; today we can see on a daily basis what the employee has booked onto the project and can do the accounting on a daily basis. Because the data are updated daily, the foremen have a better control over production.»

From a commercial perspective: system pays off in less than two years

The system went live in all areas in just one step without any tests.

«The Kaba system ran smoothly right from the start,» says project manager Baletić, summing up. «We now no longer have any manual documents; instead we have an electronic time and attendance system that provides us with precise project times for our many small projects. Overall, we have greater transparency with regard to production. Through access control, we have been able to enhance security and also improve the control over external employees.

We are thus highly satisfied with the system and the consulting and support from Kaba.» The system also pays off from a commercial perspective.

«The integrated system will have paid off at the latest in two years' time just from the elimination of manual tasks alone,» says commercial director Rüdiger Engler, explaining the benefit of the system.