

Success Story

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Daniela Scholz -
System Manager



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PERI GmbH, Weißenhorn

Perfectly integrated Time & Attendance solution for the world-market leader

PERI GmbH is the world's largest producer of formwork systems. The company name, «PERI,» is a Greek prefix meaning «around». Just like suburbs surround a city, PERI creates formwork to surround concrete and scaffolding used around building construction. PERI delivers formwork systems which help to save labor costs.

To ensure their production runs at maximum efficiency, PERI uses an SAP R/3 system. A Kaba Benzing Time & Attendance system integrated into SAP guarantees the smooth recording of working hours.

PERI was founded in Weissenhorn/Bavaria, Germany in 1969, with the idea of making the formwork process in construction faster, lighter, and safer. Since then, PERI has added considerably to the improvement and rationalization of construction processes in the field of formwork and scaffolding. For more than 30 years, PERI has been an innovator in formwork technology with many pioneering inventions to increase safety for those engaged in construction work. Since 1998 this has also applied to scaffolding techniques. Despite the weak economic situation in construction in some countries, the PERI group was able to increase its revenue in 2001 by 15.6 % up to 496 Mio. Euros. Foreign sales for the globally operating group with its own subsidiaries in 35 countries is currently around 75 percent - with an increasing trend. PERI achieved 60 percent of its

revenues with «Just-in-time» rentals, an offer that requires global logistics and warehouse operations. With a huge central warehouse and a network of efficient logistics locations, PERI is prepared for quick deliveries. Sixty percent of all orders are handled within two days. In this way, rental stocks are able to supply the construction sites with the right tool within a very short time. In the last couple of years the group has evolved into a full-service provider. Meanwhile, 650 engineers are busy with scheduling, counseling, hire-service, logistics, support of construction sites, repair and cleaning service, etc. They devote their know-how to spectacular building projects which are counted among the world's largest. Examples are the longest bridge in Europe spanning the Öresund between Sweden and Denmark with a four-lane freeway; and the world's tallest apartment building - the Trump Tower III in New York City.

Time & Attendance, Accounting and Access Control solved with a standardized solution. Ninety-five percent of all formwork is manufactured in Weißenhorn, Germany. The group employs approximately 3,300 people (2,000 abroad / 1,300 in Germany). Despite the broad program range, large quantities are produced in the manufacturing plants in Weißenhorn.

Production runs mainly in 2 shifts (morning shift and late shift), sometime even in 3 shifts. However, some areas work according to different working-time models, e.g. the receiving department.

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«We have many different types of time models, for instance varieties of part-time», explains Daniela Scholz, SAP R/3 System Manager at PERI. Working times are electronically recorded on Kaba Benzing terminals. In 1998 an SAP R/3 system was implemented, initially with the FI, FI-AA, and CO modules. Because the old accounting system was to be replaced by a new one, and with regard to the year 2000 and the Euro, the implementation of HR was examined and then scheduled for 1999. With this implementation, time recording was put to the test. «We only wanted a system for time recording and accounting», emphasizes Daniela Scholz.

«Time recording should be best possibly integrated into the SAP system.» The search for a certified SAP partner for time recording began. PERI quickly came across the Time & Attendance specialist Kaba Benzing. Kaba Benzing is the industry leader in this area with approximately 700 SAP installations. PERI decided in favor of the BCOMM for R/3 ERP system and Legic terminals. The company's existing terminals could be reused. «The solution was ideal for our requirements», says Daniela Scholz. Today, working hours are recorded at Kaba Benzing terminals in Weißenhorn as well as branches in Leipzig, Dresden, Saarmund, Willich, and Bürstadt that are connected via a leased line. The data is transferred from the BCOMM computer to the SAP system four times a day - always after shift start and shift end. That way one can immediately check to see if any bookings are missing. The B-COMM computer receives the current status from the SAP system at night.

At the moment 2,500 - 3,000 master records are in the system.

For PERI employees, little has changed with the implementation of the new system. They can still query their personal balances (e.g., overtime with or without extra pay, leave information, etc.). Only the time statement has changed with HR.

Access control was also introduced with time recording in 1999 to ensure security on the large premises. At building entrances, turnstiles were installed with external access readers controlled via access managers. The individual floors in the headquarters are also secured with readers. Currently 1,700 cards (inductive and Legic cards) have been issued. Access authorizations depend on the function of the employee. Certain groups such as management, corporate security service, and the service, have a combi-card providing them «global» access. The controls of the turnstiles are situated in the building's interior and can therefore not be damaged.

The access readers outside the building are simpler terminals that allow entrance to the building but do not distinguish between employee functions.

The time recording and access control projects at PERI are largely complete, although further extensions and new locations are occasionally added. PERI's experiences with the Kaba Benzing system have been very positive. «The system perfectly suits our requirements, works reliably, and runs smoothly right from the start», summarizes System Manager Daniela Scholz. «The interplay with our R/3 system is perfect.»