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Success Story

Alfred Giesser Messerfabrik GmbH, Winnenden

«The system runs stable and smoothly and gives us high transparency in production. We can now always see where we stand in terms of deadlines and have very good cost transparency, owing to the recalculation which takes place in parallel. This also saves us time.»

Ulrich Giesser
Chief Executive Officer

www.giesser.com
www.infor.com
www.cancom.de

Shop Floor Data Collection (SFDC) gives transparency in production

Since 1777, knives have been manufactured by the Giesser family - in those times, for use by hand. This traditional family-owned company has developed, under the name of Alfred Giesser Messerfabrik GmbH, into a high-tech company of world renown with a promising future, which today, with its staff of 60, produces high-quality knives and cutters for industrial cutting applications. Whether smooth or serrated, round or polygonal, from stamp size to cheese loaf size, Giesser manufactures customized circular and machine cutters for a wide range of applications: for cutting rubber, textiles, paper, plastic, tires, foodstuffs, etc. Thus, for example, machine knives from Winnenden are used worldwide in fish-processing factories and on many fish trawlers for rational fish carving. All industrial knives are designed especially for specific uses. Scraping and skinning knives for foodstuff processing, cross cutters, perforating knives and cut-off knives for the packaging industry, granulating knives for plastic processing, shear knives for the glass industry. These high-tech products, which have very narrow tolerances, are delivered to machine manufacturers worldwide, who mount these knives into cutters. The medium-sized company owes its leading position on the market to its high quality demands and the resulting benefit to the customer in the form of sustained increase in application performance. Apart from delivering reliable long-lived high-precision tools, Giesser offer their customers advice on the optimum use of the knives and the development and production of prototypes of tailor-made knives adapted individually to their products. Only the best starting materials, namely only high-alloy tool and high-speed steels according to DIN and

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in-house standards, are processed. If necessary, the Giesser team will even develop, in cooperation with steel manufacturers, their own steel grades which best meet the requirements of a certain special case. A second focus of the Winnenden company are printing blocks or printing rollers which are used in dabber printing machines for printing uneven surfaces, for example those of light bulbs, toys or automotive instrument panels. In the past, Giesser had used a system for production planning and control developed in-house, but today the company has been using for some time now the ERP system infor:com. The working hours were recorded by their own system, but the data records were still collected by hand. In order to obtain more precise data from production in a simple manner, at the beginning of 2005 Giesser started looking for an integrated TA and SFDC system, which could be integrated easily into the existing ERP system. «Our goal was more transparency in production,» explains Chief Executive Officer Ulrich Giesser. «We especially wanted prompt data, which used to take 3 days until they were available,» adds Job Preparation Manager Dietmar Schlotz. On the software side, a relative quick decision in favor of infor time, a module of infor:com, was made. For the hardware, several options were available: either via existing PCs or else data collection on new IPCs. The rough operating environment containing moist air had to be taken into account. They had already had bad experience with PCs equipped with fans. «We needed fanless, very sturdy devices that would withstand dust, heat and moisture», emphasizes Dietmar Schlotz. The company that was recommended was the SFDC specialist Kaba, who presented, in the form of the new hightech device B-Net 95 80, a terminal without openings, whose sturdy design and fanless concept convinced the people in charge at Giesser. Add to this the reputation of Kaba and Cancom as solid companies of great competence.
After a total of 9 SFDC terminals and four fanless PCs from Cancom had been installed, first a test phase was started. This was necessary because the new system also meant a considerable changeover for the employees, who now had to book all data produced via a LEGIC chip and a barcode scanner. This included, among other things, attendance times, all job data, piece numbers, scrap reports, machine utilization and overheads. Especially the booking of overheads resulted in a change which had an immediate effect. When booking the overheads, now the associated activities must also be booked, for example machine repair, maintenance, servicing work. «This reduced the general overheads considerably,» noted a delighted Job Preparation Manager Dietmar Schlotz. All booked SFDC data is transmitted online to the infor system for evaluation. «Now we can always see where which parts are, which production times we got for a job and what the nominal/actual comparison for this job is like,» explains Chief Executive Officer Giesser. Once the terminals were running without problems and the employees were prepared, the system was implemented for the entire company. Chief Executive Officer and Company Owner Ulrich Giesser is very satisfied with what has been achieved so far.
«The system runs stable and smoothly and gives us high transparency in production. We can now always see where we stand in terms of deadlines and have very good cost transparency, owing to the recalculation which takes place in parallel. It also saves us time because manual data collection activities have been dispensed with. Our increasing number of customers had made it imperative anyway to ease the work pressure in this area.» But the project is far from being finished. Thus, for example, implementing the data collection of multi-machine utilization or assessing the work performance of a robot has not yet been solved satisfactorily. Moreover, it is planned to use the actual data for developing performance parameters that can be used for a bonus system.