

Success Story

H.J. Küpper GmbH & Co. KG, Velbert

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«If an employee books a down time on a machine, the information is sent to maintenance immediately. The reaction time can thus be optimized and down times minimized.»

Andreas Wohler
Head of IT/Organization

www.kuepper-gruppe.de
www.gfos.com



Newly acquired process transparency even convinces the boss

The car in Germany symbolizes progress and change, like hardly any other product. New materials are pushing their way onto the market. Defined barriers are being overcome. The main ideas behind manufacturing technology and cost effectiveness are being rethought and defined anew. With the constant expansion of its site and service portfolio, the Küpper Group from Velbert is meeting these complex requirements of a market that is constantly in motion. Today, Küpper is one of the top international companies for automotive finished parts made of cast iron and aluminium and for the processing of forged parts. With state-of-the-art DP-assisted process tools, cross-site production lines, its own materials research, globally networked full services and pan-European innovation projects

for material and tool development, the Velbert company is now one of the top-performing suppliers in its segment. The Küpper Group is the global partner of the international automotive industry for research, production and development. Its customers include all the big companies in the automotive industry from Audi, BMW and Mercedes to Porsche and Volkswagen.

Effective increase in the production process

Despite the highly automated production, the ERP system Baan was scarcely linked to the production world from the IT side so that no reliable information about the production process was available with the ERP system alone. With the primary objective of gaining a certain transparency over the entire production process, the decision was taken in Velbert to introduce a system for shop floor data collection.

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The software family X/TIME of the Essen based software and system house GFOS mbH and the terminals from Kaba were chosen. Due to the lack of information, it was neither possible to trace the order nor to carry out a post-calculation. Only through the introduction of the shop floor data collection system was the desired transparency achieved that brought with it a substantial improvement in the overall flow of material. The stocks in the production warehouses could be reduced to a minimum. Whereas before it could not be traced precisely which parts were already in production, the use of the shop floor data collection means that it is visible immediately how many parts are where. For instance, it is recognizable immediately that a job order of 15,000 pieces has already gone through 40 per cent of a work process and is waiting for the next process. Only the information about the precise actual status of the production process permits the more effective increase in the production process which in turn leads to shorter throughput times.

Additional benefit was a total surprise

Only after the introduction of the shop floor data collection system were the associated benefits properly recognized. Andreas Wohlert, Head of IT/Organization at the Küpper Group in Velbert: «It was clear to me even at the start of the project that the entire company would profit in future from the shop floor data collection, but I didn't expect it to be so soon and in this scope.» The use of the online monitoring gives a precise overview of the entire machinery. In addition to the technical management, the production head and the maintenance head, the company management also has an eye on production and can see directly at the PC where there is a disruption. When a machine comes to a standstill, a preliminary reason appears in the system. When the reason is booked, the actual cause is marked in the system immediately. In addition to this, the company in Velbert is planning to expand the reporting system so that messages can be sent by SMS. If an employee books a down time on a machine, the information is sent to the

maintenance department immediately by SMS. The reaction time can be optimized and down times minimized.

One system for personnel and production

In addition to the shop floor collection, the Küpper Group is also intending to use the personnel assignment planning and the personnel requirements planning of the X/TIME family in future. In the combination of shop floor data collection and personnel requirements planning, it is possible to request proposals from the system at short notice after receipt of the order, based on machine and personnel times per piece, which employees are required with which qualification. Furthermore, the company in Velbert is also striving for integration with the personnel accounting system Hansalog. Baan hands over the orders to the shop floor data collection system in which the times are calculated so that the collected data can be automatically handed over to Hansalog.