

«We now save a lot of time in the HR office as manual tasks are no longer necessary. Via shop-floor data collection (SFDC), we are up-to-date every day and know how far a contract is at any one time.»

Rudi Henseleit  
Commercial Director

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## Ritter

Leichtmetallguss

**tisoware**®  
ZEITWIRTSCHAFT

## Ritter Leichtmetallguss GmbH, Weinstadt



### Precise calculation of costs thanks to SFDC

In light of the price pressure, companies in Germany are having to design their processes as efficiently as possible to ensure that they continue to produce in Germany. One example of this is the automotive supplier Ritter from Weinstadt that introduced shop-floor data collection to improve efficiency.

Since its beginnings in the 1950s, the Swabian company has grown through continuous expansion to become a modern industrial company that supplies well-known companies such as Daimler, Bosch, Siemens and Kärcher.

It is innovative production methods that have made Ritter Leichtmetallguss so successful over the last few decades. Ritter became a well-known name in ready-for-assembly production of lightweight metal cast parts of supreme quality. To meet the requirements of all industrial sectors, the supplier company

is using state-of-the-art systems and the latest procedures for aluminium die casting. In the four areas of aluminium die casting, powder coating, mechanical processing and tool construction, the company develops and manufactures products and solutions for its customers. The 300 or so employees manufacture, for instance, 60,000 drum suspensions for Bosch Hausgeräte and 45,000 valve housings for Daimler. In addition to large-scale series, however, small series are also produced for particular applications.

Constant investment in its machinery and the ability to handle all phases of production facilitate production precisely according to the specifications and requirements of the customers. In addition to highly modern 4- and 5-axis machining centers, the company also uses special machines depending on the machining task.

# Success Story



**It is innovative production methods that have been Ritter Leichtmetallguss so successful in the last six decades.**



**The name is known for ready-for-assembly production of lightweight metal cast parts of outstanding quality.**

Error-free casting and machining of parts, often with a very high degree of difficulty, necessitate a well-established quality management. At Ritter, the complete production process is therefore subject to constant checks - from smelting to the part ready for shipment.

## Work around the clock

At Ritter, work is done in three shifts around the clock, from Monday to Friday, and sometimes on Saturdays too. Until 2007, the working hours were still recorded at Kaba Benzing time clocks. Then the decision was taken to introduce an electronic system for attendance data and shop-floor data collection. «The system is intended to help us make our production as efficient as possible,» explains Rudi Henseleit, the Commercial Director of Ritter Leichtmetallguss. «We wanted to precisely record all the times incurred, including those for reworking, and thus to facilitate proper post-calculation. For we want to know what a contract has actually cost us.» Initial experience had already been gained beforehand with the project time

recording system tisoware.PROJEKT in tool construction. Now they were looking for a well-developed SFDC system for the entire production area. It was to record all the important data, but still be easy to operate for the staff from 13 countries. After carrying out some market research, those responsible opted for the software package from tisoware in Reutlingen in combination with Kaba terminals. «We had already had good experience with both suppliers. Furthermore, the software system met our requirements exactly. With the hardware, we were convinced by the robust PC terminals from Kaba. For they have to withstand harsh conditions in our foundry,» says Rudi Henseleit, explaining the decision. For the recording of the data, five Kaba terminals of the type B-Net 95 80 were installed at the company. Via touch screen, the PC terminals are easy to use and users can even leave their gloves on. Initially, the attendance times of all employees will be recorded. All order data incurred are primarily recorded via barcode scanners so that only a few entries such as number of

units have to be done by hand by staff. «We have designed everything to be as simple as possible,» emphasizes Rudi Henseleit. The attendance data recorded are incorporated firstly in the wage and salary program Logo for payroll management. The SFDC are processed further in the ERP system Navision. For this, tisoware provides a number of analyses, e.g. for all the relevant actual data from the production for post-calculation. In a next step, the module tisowarePRÄMIE is to determine the employee performance level.

## Important data at the press of a button

Ritter Leichtmetallguss is very satisfied with the system up to now. «We now save a lot of time in the HR office as manual tasks are no longer necessary. Via SFDC, we are up-to-date every day and know how far a contract is at any one time. Today, the system shows us what an order has actually cost us and where reworking was necessary. This enables us to carry out a precise analysis in order to take measures to avoid this in the future. Through the feedback regarding contract data, we can see the material consumption in Microsoft Dynamics Navision and thus plan our purchasing activities better,» says Henseleit, the company's authorized signatory, summing up the benefits for his company. As the system already provides him with many important data at the press of a button, the only thing left to fulfill now is Rudi Henseleit's vision: «I press a button in the evening and see the turnover and profit straight away.»