

«Collaboration with Kaba was prompt and without any problems, in conditions that were not easy. Just what you would expect from fruitful cooperation.»

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Project manager IDS Scheer

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AMPCO, Equatorial Guinea



Time Attendance under tropical conditions

In Equatorial Guinea in West Africa, Atlantic Methanol Production Company (AMPCO) is operating one of the largest methanol production plants in the world. Here, on the island of Bioko just off the coast of Malabo, natural gas has been converted into methanol since 2001. The systems are in operation around the clock and produce approx. 1 million tonnes of methanol every year. This equates to 3 per cent of the global market. The methanol is then transported in the company's own ships to Europe and the US, where it is sold by AMPCO Marketing to customers from all over the world. As an alcohol, methanol is a basic element for many other petrochemical products and everyday commodities. Methanol is a very versatile chemical that is required, among others, in the manufacture of adhesives for plywood and other building materials, polyester fibers and packaging, plastics films, colors, paints, fuels and fuel additives.

The methanol is produced and loaded onto ships at Bioko Island. The company has been managed since 2006 by a SAP all-in-one system from IDS Scheer. A Time Attendance system was sought to go with this which would also work under tough climatic conditions, for the plant is located in the midst of tropical jungle.

The working hours of the employees had been recorded manually up to then which meant considerable administrative effort. An electronic system was to hand over the working times automatically to the SAP system and the HCM module. The existing badges of a third-party supplier were to be adopted, if possible. The B-COMM ERP for SAP ERP offered by Kaba convinced the managers at AMPCO in several ways: The sub-system can be integrated easily into the SAP system via the certified interface and the hardware is very robust. Kaba is also well-known at IDS Scheer as a reliable and competent partner from various projects in the SAP environment.

Success Story

The adoption of the existing badges was not a problem either. AMPCO was delighted at the prompt and professional set-up of the system. For instance, a test system was installed on site in mid-April and it worked without any problems. After an employee training course, the system was put into productive operation as early as 1 June.

Since then, even the B-Net terminals 93 40 installed outdoors have been defying the wind and the tropical rain and thus recording the working times of the employees without any problems. An increased IP protection category and a special tropical design make the terminals so robust. This first installation in Equatorial Guineas is strengthening

the partnership with IDS Scheer and is another important step for the Solution House Workforce Management in its efforts to open up the African market. Kaba is thus proving once again its pioneering role in the implementation of integrated Time Attendance systems in SAP ERP systems.