

# Success story

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Siegmar Meier  
IT-Leiter



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## Rehm Thermal Systems GmbH, Blaubeuren



### An integrated SFDC system saves time and costs

With the development of inert gas reflow soldering systems and the engineering of customized applications for the cost-effective production of electronic components, the company Rehm Thermal Systems GmbH from Blaubeuren near Ulm has set the benchmark worldwide. 'The continuous dialog between development technology and a rapidly changing market plus the combination of creativity, expertise and personal commitment are the basis for the success of Rehm Thermal Systems GmbH,' says managing director Johannes Rehm. Rehm was founded in 1990 and with its 170 employees is now one of the leading suppliers of production technologies for the electronics industry. In collaboration with other companies and through partnerships with research institutes and universities, the company develops trendsetting products for the automotive, telecommunication, TV/video technology, computer electronics and industrial electronics sectors.

In addition to the production facilities for Europe, the management, administration, sales and service management and the development and engineering departments are also located at the headquarters. The entire company worldwide is managed from Blaubeuren. Due to its enormous growth, the company has already expanded twice. For instance, the sheet metal machining division was hived off into the newly established Rehm BlechTec GmbH in 2003. To meet the growing requirements, a new production hall with a total of 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> was built and put into operation in 2009. The IT infrastructure also has to keep pace with the company's growth. That is why Rehm was looking for a suitable ERP system and a new time recording and shop floor data collection system. The company's existing SFDC solution, which it had developed itself, had reached its limits.

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For the production employees had to write down the times per project / customer contract manually. As Rehm primarily produces small series and individual systems, this quickly amounted to 200 handwritten sheets every day. These data then had to be entered into the PC by an employee. 'The effort for this was excessive, which was why we were looking for an integrated electronic SDFC system that would do the job for us,' explains Siegmur Meier, head of IT at Rehm. SAP was ultimately chosen as the ERP system. 'For the time recording and shop floor data collection, we wanted an integrated system that uses the central HR master data in SAP.' The aim was to record all relevant time and order data promptly and to analyze these in the SAP system. 'We had specific requirements that the system partner was to implement as flexibly as possible,' emphasized Meier. These included the recording of attendance times of the administration employees directly at the workplace, a specific recording of overhead costs and a handling of multiple orders and multiple machines in the SFDC area. With regard to the hardware, they were looking for high-quality devices that also work well in tough environments over many years.

The decision was then taken in favor of Kaba. 'We were convinced by the integrated Kaba solution for SAP and the robust terminals,' says Siegmur Meier, explaining the decision. Other factors were the option of access control via the SAP HR master data and the proven partnership between Kaba and the SAP consulting firm All for One.

Type 95 80 SFDC terminals were initially installed in the production areas and the software B-COMM ERP for SAP set up on a server. The entire system went live after a test phase. Since then, the administration employees have been recording their work times directly at their PC via a recording client; the production employees, in contrast, have been recording them at the SFDC terminals. The reception area and the HR department receive an attendance list and a booking list via the software modules 'Attendance Board' and 'Booking Viewer', meaning that they always know who is in the building. All SDFC data is also recorded at the terminals in the production department: this ranges from the wage slip acknowledgement, multiple order processing and multi-machine operation, yield and scrap quantities to night work and maintenance. The recording of down-times was also important.

A special adjustment by Kaba makes this possible. An overhead order is automatically generated when there are more than 5 minutes between the stop and start of a productive order process. Another variant of project time recording was introduced in the area of development and marketing. Here, the employees record their projects at PCs that are equipped with mobile B-Net 91 07 Legic readers.



The data recorded in the different areas are then incorporated into the corresponding SAP modules HR, PP and PS. As the employees were well trained beforehand, there were no problems in the introduction of the system. The employees accepted the system very well overall; after all, it saves them having to write down times, which is a laborious task. The administration employees also appreciate being able to conveniently record their times at their own PC. At Rehm BlechTec, they also introduced access control in addition to time recording. An access control and several readers ensure that the access to the building and to certain areas inside is protected against unauthorized access. The system has now been in operation for several months and IT manager Meier takes initial stock as follows: 'The Kaba system has run smoothly right from the outset. We are highly satisfied with the support from Kaba. The electronic recording of the shop floor data means that we save time and costs. The controlling department receives all the relevant data in a timely manner and thus has a precise basis for its calculations.'