



WELL EQUIPPED FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY

Hymer-Leichtmetallbau is expanding its company-wide deployment of IFS Applications to include the industry-focused ERP solution component IFS Automotive Supply Chain Management. This medium-sized company has three main businesses. The product portfolio ranges from ladders and scaffolds through vehicle technology to customized special designs. The production and logistics processes at Hymer-Fahrzeugbau are just as varied. All in all, the three production divisions cover almost the whole gamut of types of manufacturing. Be it mass production or made-to-order, long runs, short runs or one-offs, specials or prefabrication—almost every type of manufacturing is in use. This means that production and logistics management place wide-ranging demands on an ERP system. Given market globalization, integrated planning and flexible delivery are increasingly critical business factors.

INTEGRATION FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY

In 2001 Hymer-Leichtmetallbau had already replaced the business software it had been using since 1984 with IFS Applications. The aim was to reproduce, link and manage in an integrated manner on a single IT platform absolutely every internal business process in the core areas of production, logistics, financials and personnel.

What tipped the balance in favor of IFS were its industry-specific know-how, sustainability and international focus. The deciding functional factor was that the fully web-capable system covers all of Hymer-Leichtmetallbau's production and logistics processes, is multi-company capable and can be installed gradually thanks to its component architecture. This ensured that the aluminum specialist could continue to grow in the future with agile support from its information technology.

“The system offers all the customer functionalities for JIT and JIS delivery we have to cover. The deployment of the automotive supply chain component from IFS is an enormous help to us, because manual data handling is no longer required. Around 20 additional hours per week had been scheduled for that, because this project is new and highly complex. That would not have been possible with existing staff levels. By using IFS Applications, our employees do not have to spend extra time and their overall burden of work is less.” Manuela Ohmayer, ASC project manager at Hymer-Leichtmetallbau.

EXPANSION AROUND NEW COMPONENT

A total of 110 users now work with IFS Applications at Hymer-Leichtmetallbau. The ERP system, which is deployed right across the company, has gradually been adapted to current requirements. The most recent example is January 2008, when the automotive supply chain component went live.

ABOUT HYMER-LEICHTMETALLBAU GMBH & CO. KG

Hymer-Leichtmetallbau GmbH & Co. KG, whose headquarters are in Wangen, Germany, was founded in 1962 and today has around 350 employees. Turnover in fiscal 2007 was € 62 million, with exports accounting for 59 percent. The most important export markets are Europe, the Near and Middle East and Central Asia. Since its beginnings as a supplier to aircraft manufacturer Dornier, the company's portfolio has grown substantially and today covers the three business categories of ladders and scaffolding, vehicle technology and customized special designs.



Office Wangen

At the end of 2007, Hymer Leicht-metallbau was faced with the task of upgrading the existing just-in-time (JIT) supply system of an existing customer to a just-in-sequence (JIS) system. But Hymer-Leichtmetallbau could not meet the JIS delivery requirements with its existing system. The change to JIS would have meant manually processing the data that arrived each day. Because IFS Applications was already being deployed across the company, the possibility was investigated of meeting the JIS requirements by using another component of this ERP solution.

This is where IFS' automotive supply chain functionality came in—an industry-specific component newly developed by IFS and specially designed for the German automotive supplier market. This solution is for system suppliers and subcontractors who want to fully automate the exchange of data with vehicle manufacturers. Because the additional requirements in the solution vary from customer to customer, IFS also supports any necessary individual adjustments.

In this case, the supplier's customer wanted the order item number and order item position on the invoice, which is not standard. It was possible to meet this requirement by means of a special adjustment.

QUICK AND SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

A really tight timeframe of only six weeks was available for the implementation phase. The go-live had to take place on January 1, 2008. Thanks to the very good cooperation between the members of the internal and external project team, implementation was completed on schedule.

“The approaching date of the production start was very challenging for us during the project. There was also the fact that the implementation was done towards the end of the year. But the fantastic quality of IFS advice paid off—it meant that the project was moving in the right direction from the start. It must be said that it is not always the case that a software provider understands immediately what we want,” says Manuela Ohmayer.

The integration of IFS' automotive supply chain functionality at Hymer-Leichtmetallbau brings decisive benefits. Whereas previously customer data had to be interpreted via Microsoft® Excel® and adapted manually, this time-consuming process can now be done automatically.

UNIFORM CORPORATE ERP SYSTEM

Thanks to the seamless integration of another component into the existing ERP system, Hymer-Leichtmetallbau is also benefiting since the latest integration from having a uniform solution company-wide. There is no need, therefore, for additional interfaces that might make the whole system unnecessarily complicated. From product development and planning through manufacturing and sales to service management—all the supplier's business processes can be planned, managed and assessed in a single business system agilely and flexibly. So Hymer-Leichtmetallbau is well equipped to compete globally even in the future.

BENEFITS

- Development of significant potential for streamlining and optimization
- Greater flexibility and agility in global competition
- Time-saving through automated data processing in JIS supply
- Closed system, which means no duplicated data retention or interface issues
- Basis for efficient cooperation with customers

SOFTWARE

- IFS Financials™
- IFS Human Resources™
- IFS Engineering™
- IFS Distribution™
- IFS Maintenance™
- IFS Applications for Service Management™
- IFS Quality Management™
- IFS Business Performance™
- IFS Applications for Automotive™
- IFS Supply Chain Management™



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