



## BOLIX STREAMLINES WAREHOUSE MANAGEMENT WITH IFS APPLICATIONS™ UPGRADE

**A new version of IFS Applications™ boasting an intuitive user interface, IFS Enterprise Explorer (IFS EE), has been deployed in Bolix. This has resulted in warehouse management improvement, faster communication in the production area, and increased efficiency of sales workflows.**

Bolix S.A. is one of the leading producers of construction chemicals and a leading provider of thermal building insulation materials in Poland. Since 2001 the company has been managed with the help of IFS Applications, an integrated suite of ERP software.

In 2010, the board of Bolix decided to upgrade to a new version of the solution. The reasoning behind that was to improve warehouse management as well as communications on the shop floor. This in turn would improve the customer experience and give the company more of an edge over its competitors.

### IFS APPLICATIONS UPGRADE

The upgrade to a new version of IFS Applications was based on the idea of retaining the original functionality of the system. To facilitate the upgrade, business workflows were remodeled. The application was then re-implemented to be incorporated into the new processes. New rules for warehouse operations were established along with the necessary changes made to the manufacturing reporting procedures.

The new system allowed Bolix to implement a task-oriented workflow management approach for warehouse operations, with the help of the IFS VAP Palety™ solution, a pallet-handling system. It also improved online reporting of warehousing tasks by the means of wireless QR code reader terminals.

Shipment planning and related scheduling processes for all manufacturing and logistics operations in the company were implemented. Typing in data became a thing of the past. Now all information could be entered by the warehouse workers via terminals. Shipments are handled according to the FEFO (First Expired, First Out) rule, so products with the shortest expiration date are shipped out first.

Crucial changes were also made to manufacturing workflows. Materials are now delivered to specific warehouse locations designated for the respective departments, and warehouse staff can track the progress of each task. Products are received from manufacturing on the spot and then moved to their respective

### ABOUT BOLIX

Bolix is a leading producer of construction chemicals in Poland, specializing in elevation systems. The Bolix brand has existed since 1991 and it is renowned for high-quality construction solutions at a competitive price. With about 10% market share, the company is year on year one of the top providers of thermal insulation solutions in Poland. Bolix offers the most modern elevation solutions, adhesives and materials used on ceramics as well as paints and other products for interiors.

Bolix cooperates with major chemicals concerns such as BASF and BAYER. With one of the largest networks of paint and plaster mixing plants in Poland, Bolix collaborates with nearly 500 trade partners across the country. Currently Bolix employs approximately 210 people.



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location in the warehouse. The actual time for completing specific tasks is logged and then used to compare against standards. Communication of manufacturing requirements has also been streamlined; production is altered as soon as data is processed in sales.

In the sales department an “on-the-fly” valuation process has been introduced. It incorporates paper-free documentation processing and approval of commercial terms requests, involving the field sales representative in both the drafting and execution stages of customer orders. However, the most crucial change in sales was the deployment of a B2B solution. With it, customers can access an online web portal to browse the inventory and order items depending on their current needs as well as planned investment projects.

By presenting the information based on profiles, customers can easily track order and shipment status. Accessing information on issued invoices and processed payments is also very simple. The B2B solution is very flexible. The information provided on the web portal can be expanded with ease to incorporate new aspects. The upgrade was completed in 2011.

## BENEFITS

The most important benefit is the improvement of warehouse operations—online reporting. This includes immediate logging of manufactured items, which in turn affects shipment scheduling.

A new “pallet” unit has been introduced, along with reporting processes for all pallet transfers in the warehouse, both of which help accurately reflect the inventory in the system, make it easier to find the right item more easily, and allow optimal “paths” to be plotted to gather all the products required for shipment. A request system for specific terminal operators (warehouse staff) helps reduce downtime and shifts the responsibilities for tasks accordingly. And paper-work has actually been eliminated. The process also reduces the risk of taking items from an incorrect batch or from the wrong place.

“Shipment efficiency has improved. With the collective shipments, it is clear what is sent in each truck. Pallets are verified before being sent out, which helps to avoid any mistakes. In season we send out 30 vehicles a day, which is more than before we deployed this solution,” says Tomasz Czub, IT Manager at Bolix S.A. “Staff are more aware of their responsibilities as it is easy to determine whether someone has made a mistake or failed to observe proper procedures. Now we can also analyze and compare the efficiency of each worker. All these things make our warehouse work more organized.”

Other benefits of the system upgrade include reduction of additional effort, better space allocation and improved stock rotation.

IFS Applications has also been implemented in Bolix’s subsidiary in Ukraine. Completed in the first quarter of 2013, it covers financials and distribution and enables management to gain full transparency into, and control over, business processes in the Ukrainian subsidiary.

## BENEFITS

- Quick access to management information
- Reduction of stock
- Improved customer service
- Improved availability of funds
- Improved efficiency of sales representatives

## SOFTWARE

IFS Financials™  
 IFS Distribution™  
 IFS Manufacturing™  
 IFS CRM™  
 IFS Document Management™  
 IFS Business Performance™  
 IFS Human Resources™  
 IFS Payroll Administration™

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