



IFS APPLICATIONS™ SUPPORTS MANUFACTURING AT FCPK BYTÓW

The implementation of IFS Applications™ in FCPK Bytów, a manufacturer of steel elements for injection molds and die sets, resulted in optimized and streamlined business process in the company.

Before implementing IFS Applications, FCPK Bytów had used two independent IT systems: one was used for sales and finance, while the other was used for shop floor management. This set-up required moving data from one system to the other, which was very tedious. Moreover, the solution was outdated and its vendor no longer provided support for it. Since there was no technical support and no possibility to upgrade, company management decided to purchase a new management system.

IFS OFFERED STANDARD, INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC FUNCTIONALITY

The search for a new ERP system began in March 2009. A request for proposal, which included the functional requirements of the solution, was sent to the market's largest vendors. Major factors influencing the choice of the solution were usability and support for the LIFO inventory valuation method, which was necessary due to the parent company's accounting requirements. After analyzing the offers, three solutions were selected which met all the necessary conditions. IFS Applications was among them. After subsequent talks and price negotiations, the management of FCPK Bytów decided to choose the offer made by IFS.

The goal was to streamline and optimize the company's business processes, with particular emphasis on improving the efficiency of the financial department and simplifying the creation of the balance sheet. One of the purposes of introducing IFS Applications was to enable real-time operations without the need to manually copy data. The new system was also intended to improve cost management, support production planning, and facilitate information management and the ability to make informed business decisions.

The company decided to use the standard functionality of the system and adapt its business processes to the requirements and structure of the new system.

ABOUT FCPK BYTÓW

The FCPK BYTÓW Sp. z o. o. was established in 1993 by its American parent company Superior Die Set Corporation of Milwaukee, Wisconsin—which has been a leader in the die set and mold base industries for over 90 years. Company employs 270 people and with its two locations (in Bytów and Kielce) specializes in production of mold bases and standard parts for injection and pressure molds as well as the die sets and standard parts for press tooling. FCPK BYTÓW is the biggest supplier in Poland of such products and over 40% of the production is being exported all over Europe and USA.



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SMOOTH, RAPID IMPLEMENTATION

In April 2010, an implementation team was established, consisting of the leaders of each of the company's operational areas: finance, distribution, manufacturing and logistics. They collaborated with IFS consultants on the implementation project and were responsible for the subsequent training of their employees.

The project progressed at a quick rate. The system was implemented simultaneously in Bytów headquarters and at the plant in Kielce, Poland. Requirements were defined for each workstation, and norms were specified to properly plan employee and machine workload. Technological routes were developed as well, which required substantial effort due to the differences in manufacturing processes between the Bytów and Kielce sites. Thorough verification of the data retrieved from the old system proved necessary as well, which delayed migration of data to IFS Applications. Due to time pressures, only the data necessary to maintain production was entered, and standard routes were prepared for various materials. This made it possible to meet the deadline. The solution was launched in January 2011.

FCPK Bytów adapted its business processes to the new ERP solution. Minor customizations were introduced to improve efficiency, such as a new production reporting window resembling the one that manufacturing employees were used to.

IFS Applications covers manufacturing, distribution, finance, HR and payroll. The system was implemented together with the new IFS Enterprise Explorer (IFS EE) user interface. FCPK Bytów was one of the first customers to implement this interface in Poland.

ENHANCED BUSINESS INFORMATION FLOWS

One of the core benefits of implementing IFS Applications is improved information flows in the company. The need to manually retype data from one system to another was eliminated, which directly contributed to savings in time and resources, and reduced the amount of paper-based documentation. All the necessary data is available in real time for anyone who is authorized to access it.

Another benefit is that the time required to create the company balance sheet has been greatly reduced. Accountants have constant access to data, which makes it possible for them to create the balance sheet within hours, as opposed to the days it took before IFS Applications was implemented.

Financial management capabilities have improved, with real-time access to complete cost, financial, logistics and warehouse management information. Now management can easily follow business processes through a single system.

The new browser-based IFS EE interface is very user-friendly, and its intuitiveness and usability help to achieve greater work effectiveness.

BENEFITS

- Real-time access to manufacturing data
- Instant access to management information
- Better system utilization in planning
- Better cost management
- Efficient inventory management
- Month-end closing done within a day
- More effective maintenance management



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