



PLANNING RELIABILITY AND REDUCED WORKLOADS

Forward planning makes production processes efficient despite dynamic customer requirements

In the field of plastics extrusion, flexibility is a requirement. The market demands ever shorter delivery times and the ability to react quickly. That is why every process step must be fully in sync with the overall process. HakaGerodur AG, a leading manufacturer in the field of plastics extrusion, has been using the GANTTPLAN Advanced Planning and Scheduling (APS) system at two of its three production sites. Their goals? Implement automatic planning to reduce employee workloads, increase planning reliability, and save time and money.

HakaGerodur – experienced specialist in plastics extrusion

HakaGerodur has operated in the field of plastics extrusion for many decades. The company manufactures plastic products for heating and plumbing, piping systems, plastic profiles, and geothermal systems at three locations in Switzerland and Germany. The company is committed to producing customer-oriented, economical, and high-quality solutions.



Initially, HakaGerodur implemented the ERP system from IFS for process optimization. However, it was not able to fully meet the company's complex requirements production planning so it decided to switch to an APS system.

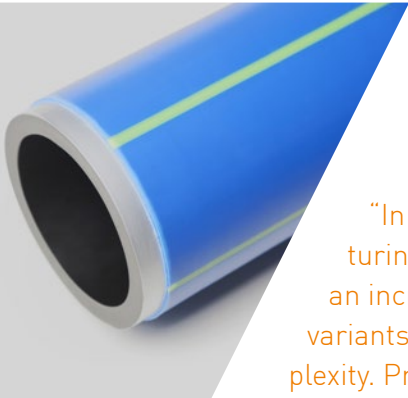
As a planning add-on, an APS system is the logical extension to the ERP solution. It bridges the gap between the ERP system's long-term view and dynamic developments in production. This helps planners to work more efficiently and spend more time on important tasks, making them conductors rather than jugglers.

APS yes, but which?

Michael Menzl points out, "When selecting the right APS solution for our company, we focused on comprehensive functions for detailed planning, the possibility to automate planning, and user-friendliness."

Once the goals were defined, the company looked for appropriate vendors to implement the solution. In the second step of the project, HakaGerodur conducted a webinar with the two selected vendors, key users, and process owners from the company.

"We did this so the group could ask questions and brainstorm possible solutions. This led to greater acceptance among employees and helped to identify future planning possibilities," highlights Michael Menzl.



**The goal?
Planning that is
more efficient and
flexible**

"In today's manufacturing world there is an increasing number of variants and growing complexity. Products in our market are being developed faster than ever and we must be able to react flexibly to changes as quickly as possible. That's why all planning-relevant resources and production restrictions in manufacturing must be reviewed and managed so that they can be optimized according to the target criteria. Well-designed forward planning is therefore an absolute requirement for efficient manufacturing processes in our company," explains Michael Menzl, CEO, HakaGerodur AG.

„DUALIS was an excellent guide throughout the proof of concept. It was essential for us to ensure implementation would be fast and smooth with the appropriate interface.“

Michael Menzl, CEO, HakaGerodur AG





The final impetus for the decision was a proof of concept (POC) developed with DUALIS aimed at defining interface specifications together with IFS, among other objectives.

Proof of concept: preliminary work for an efficient rollout

“With the proof of concept, a significant part of the project work had already been completed. Weaknesses and potential risks were identified and the amount of time and resources required were estimated. In addition, the test showed that GANTTPLAN was able to implement all requirements,” says Michael Menzl.

HakaGerodur benefited by using a valid basis for making the decision to implement the GANTTPLAN APS system. Investing in the POC paved the way for a fast and efficient software rollout.

Integration test during implementation

GANTTPLAN was fully implemented at HakaGerodur only a few months after the POC and implementation was carried out by experienced DUALIS planning experts. The ERP implementa-

tion partner experienced initial problems, in particular, with the implementation of the interface. However, DUALIS provided support throughout all process steps, offering the necessary expertise, and performed rigorous integration tests to ensure a successful implementation phase.

Planning as an essential component of a modern and digital factory

Today, HakaGerodur uses GANTTPLAN Expert. It is an interactive APS system used by production companies with stringent order scheduling requirements as well as a need for HR and/or tool planning.

It supports planners in evaluating material flows and manufacturing capacities simultaneously so that production orders can be scheduled with precision and executed efficiently, taking all restrictions into account. Any capacity gaps are also identified quickly and reliably.

This means that planners are able to look at the entire planning horizon and (re)act quickly and with accuracy. They are navigated through the planning process, so to speak, and supported so that they can circumvent obstacles efficiently.

Facts and figures

-  A traditional company with over 90 years of experience in the field of plastic extrusion
-  Three locations in Switzerland and Germany
-  Selected solution: APS GANTTPLAN Expert as an add-on to the IFS ERP system.
-  Cost and time savings
-  Greater transparency and planning reliability
-  Reduced employee workloads



“In order to react quickly to changing customer needs and market requirements and to act with foresight, appropriate planning is critical. It is essential for us to have an overview of and control over all planning-relevant resources and restrictions in production simultaneously. GANTTPLAN Advanced Planning and Scheduling system makes this possible. It reduces employee workloads, creates planning reliability, and saves time and money.”

Michael Menzl, CEO, HakaGerodur AG



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