



Order processing considerably accelerated

ERP system enhances transparency and processing reliability at the leading packing contractor Unionpack

To be able to supply data continuously to each employee and to preclude material withdrawal errors, the packing contractor Unionpack relies on the integrated standard software abas ERP. The program package is to optimize business processes and assure an increase in productivity.

The packaging contractor industry demands the highest standards for business IT. New raw materials and production regulations, or orders which have to be calculated constantly make this necessary. Added is an above average flexibility in production planning and warehousing. The great effort and expense is directly linked to the products of this sector.

Full service as the top maxim

Who doesn't know them: small, welded into plastic sachets, samples of a new skin cream or a little glass phial containing a new fragrance. As advertising objects, these samples are distributed by the cosmetics, pharmaceutical and consumer goods industry by the thousands; and in supermarkets and drug stores these portion packs are more and more common as sales articles. For the bottling and packaging of powders, granulate material, liquid, paste-like and solid filling goods, leading brands put their confidence into the professional services of the packaging contractor Unionpack GmbH, founded in 1962. With 13,000 square meters production and storage area, 4,500 pallet spaces and a production capacity of 750 million primary packages Union pack is one of Europe's leading providers. At their sites at Frankfurt am Main and Groß-Zimmern/Germany 180 employees produce and fill one, in Europe unique, choice of packaging like sachets, blisters, tubes, pots and tins – to mention just a few examples. The scope of services reaches from the development of packing and the respective technologies to filling and packaging. Unionpack offers its customers a top quality and on schedule "full service" for all packaging challenges, supplemented by its own foil printing facility FD Foliendruck GmbH in Frankfurt as well as close cooperation on the international level with its sister company Unionpack East S.R.O. in Karlsbad/Czech Republic.

Standard ERP provides independence

With the order based production of the packaging specialist, new raw materials and finished products are introduced all the time, production regulations change frequently.

Previous to the introduction of the abas Business Software all departments at Unionpack operated with a program developed by external EDP providers. Plant manager Christian Schmitt, MBA: "Our old system was developed and maintained by an external consultancy company. In many areas it was not networked and data maintenance had to be duplicated and triplicated. That led to inaccuracies. With the change of an order it was possible that the new, for the generation of an invoice necessary, withdrawal quantities were transferred with delays. The control effort for the invoice generation was very high." Schmitt continues: "Our external adviser was the only person with a complete overview of the system. This resulted in a certain dependence. A standard system can be maintained by company employees. When an employee leaves, a replacement can be found quickly through appropriate training at the system provider."

Software selection focuses on continuity of the data flow and processing security

During the selection of the new ERP system the continuous data flow and the processing security were the most important points for the packaging contractor. Plant manager Schmitt: "The order processing had to be viewable in the new system. With the many specialities in our profession this was a challenge. On top of this we set store by an integrated financial accounting system and the processing security also had to be ensured."





The scope of services of Unionpack reaches from production to filling of sachets, blisters, tubes and more.

“Unionpack also checked the competency and the implementation strategy of the system provider. “With the ABAS Software AG and their software partner, ABAS Projektierung Rhein Main GmbH & Co. KG we felt comfortable right from the beginning,” says Schmitt. “Through the facility of the flexible user interface pro-

gramming all our company processes could be displayed by the abas Business Software.” He continues: “The functional standard of the abas Business Software covered a large part of our requirements; visits to companies, with similar tasks to Unionpack and already using abas Business Software, convinced us again of the flexibility of the software.”

Implementation strategy supports speedy system launch

In late summer of 2001, Unionpack and the ABAS Projektierung Rhein Main GmbH & Co. KG were able to start the implementation of the abas Business Software. The well proven implementation strategy of ABAS Projektierung was followed. Project leader Schmitt: “In August 2001 the first key user training courses in the training facility of ABAS Projektierung in Karlsruhe took place. All required program adjustments were, after a three week, intensive practice phase, determined through organizational discussions between Unionpack and ABAS Projektierung. Only 4 months after the project start, financial accounting was operating the system for real. From the middle of March 2002 all departments operated the new software; 50 terminals are now in use online company wide.

Transparency delivers advantages

Benefits quickly became apparent, one year after the system implementation Unionpack already works more productively. Mr. Schmitt: “The continuous, transparent data flow accelerates the order processing considerably. Any information about the respective customer, vendor and order status can be accessed at any time.

Machine utilization has been optimized, adherence to delivery dates has been further improved and stock could be reduced in spite of higher production levels. The recently introduced bar coding in materials management at Unionpack again delivers transparency and time savings. An important, additional benefit of the implementation of bar codes is the guaranteed process security. Since the implementation of the abas Business Software, material withdrawal errors for production orders have been a thing of the past. A complete chain of lot tracing and an always checkable material flow are safeguarded. The organizational requirements of DIN EN ISO 9001:2000, 13485:2001, AMG and GMP were therefore implemented.

Fine tuning succeeds the implementation

A significant part of the implementation methodology of ABAS Projektierung is the optimization of the software after system implementation. Christian Schmitt: “The abas Business Software was implemented close to standard. Additional, sensible requirements only became apparent after the operational start. Existing processes were and still are finetuned, further modules can be tied in and the service level of the abas Business Software is optimally adapted to the requirements of the company. With the abas Business Software all system and analysis options are utilized and a continually finetuned final costing and cost center accounting is instigated.