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Success Story

“Every liter counts”

TRM optimizes automatic loading with OpenTAS®

Few markets are as dynamic and complex as the mineral oil sector. Fluctuating prices, strict safety regulations, sensitive products and constantly present taxes confronts the company with great challenges. This sector has to work quicker, more safely and more transparently than companies in most other markets. Technological advantage is a condition necessary for survival. The TOTAL Raffinerie Mitteldeutschland GmbH (TRM) which operates Europe’s most modern refinery in Leuna/Spargau, has optimized the loading procedure for mineral oil products. All processes are controlled by OpenTAS® from Implico.

With the OpenTAS® project, TRM and TOTAL Deutschland GmbH wanted to achieve several goals. The system was to automate the entire loading process. Also, with OpenTAS, the old individual solution was replaced by a modern standard product. Specifically, the new solution allows a close integration with SAP® R/3®. Another advantage was the harmonization of the processes between the refinery in Leuna and the TOTAL group, which has been using the Implico system throughout Germany since years. Furthermore, the head office of TOTAL Deutschland in Berlin wanted to have the possibility of controlling the logistics in the refinery via a central architecture.

Advantage: Automation

Around 90 percent of products leave the refinery by road and rail; that means around 400 trucks and 15 trains every day. This can only be dealt with using sophisticated logistics controlled by high-performance software. OpenTAS takes on this sensitive task. The

solution enables constant monitoring and documentation issuing of goods. Additionally, OpenTAS examines the loading authorization and release notes in advance, both from the commercial aspect as well as with regard to the legal requirements for hazardous goods.

The loading process already begins at the entrance barrier. Here, OpenTAS examines the truck’s ID card to check whether the vehicle is registered and authorized for loading. Additionally, the software checks whether the client also has corresponding quantity quotas. OpenTAS only permits access after these checks have been successfully carried out, and the trucks can drive to an loading ramp. “All this takes two minutes at the most”, Jürgen Kolbe, manager of TRM’s information systems, explains. In the meantime, OpenTAS has compiled the data for the order, and transmitted this to the loading computer. After the truck has been filled, the loading computer sends the measurement data blocks, including the

flow quantities and temperatures, back to OpenTAS. With this information, the system automatically compiles all the transport papers up to and including the customs documentation for exports. At the same time, the system has also carried out the required tax entries. And so, the truck is dispatched and can set off on its way without a single TRM employee having to intervene. “Usually, our dispatch clerk doesn’t even notice that a vehicle is being dispatched”, says Jürgen Kolbe.

Advantage: Standard Product

With the switch-over, TOTAL and TRM decided against the previous individual solution. “The standardized product is much more flexible”, explains Siegfried Rosinus, director of depot operations for Germany at TOTAL. Dieter Obst, the director of planning/exposition at TRM, and responsible for the loading system, names a further advantage: “With OpenTAS, the client benefits from the many functionalities.” For example, Obst refers to the new PIN reading – keyword “9/11” – which examines the driver’s ID and that of the truck. The higher security level also speaks in favor of the standardized product. The OpenTAS product manager Thomas Fahland: “With individual solutions, everything we already have would have had to be developed. With us, clients simply do not take any risks”.

Advantage: Integration

Besides automation, one of the strengths of OpenTAS is the very high degree of integration with SAP. The continual exchange of data not only offers greater security, it also considerably speeds up all the processes: "Even before the driver receives his papers, the loading data is already at the head office in the SAP® system. Before, this used to take 2 or 3 days", Implico managing director Kay-Peter Buhtz says. However, despite these integration capacities, OpenTAS is designed as a stand-alone system. This means that the solution is also available if SAP isn't working – for example, during maintenance. Besides SAP integration, the TRM system is also characterized by a high degree of openness regarding field components. Area director Rosinus: "As a refinery, Spergau had different field components to our depots." As an example, he refers to the rail car loading system introduced in 1997.

Integrated into the business processes

TOTAL deploys OpenTAS throughout Germany. This standard offers many advantages: "On the one hand we can get changes done quickly, and on the other hand, we can secure an integrated data structure in this way", Rosinus says. Regarding TRM, TOTAL decided for a central solution: the OpenTAS system in Spergau was connected to the SAP R/3 at the Berlin head office. This provides the information regarding the loading orders, which OpenTAS handles locally, and then receives the report on

the precise parameters of the transaction back online. OpenTAS is also linked to a SAP system in Paris. The central solution ensures that the TOTAL headquarters in Berlin are constantly kept up to date on the loading activities.

Special Feature: Reporting

One of OpenTAS' outstanding features is the reporting function, which can be adapted individually. "The reports and statistics are a great help to us in our work", Obst explains. "After all, each and every liter counts. It all means money." Area manager Kolbe is of the same opinion: "We use this function a great deal." The many demands from the departments prove the practical benefits of the reporting function. "One other great advantage is that we can adapt the reports in-house", says Kolbe. "That saves money".

Decisive for the quality of a specialized system such as OpenTAS from Implico is the industry-specific competence of the developers and consultants. Product manager Fahland is confident: "Our experience is our trump card." And the customer confirms this: "Implico really knows oil specific business processes and technology", Rosinus praises the company. Area manager Kolbe agrees: "We worked together as a team from the start. The Implico consultants were extremely familiar with the sector."

Future

Of course, there are limits to the extension of the system in the future:



"You cannot automate more than this", Kolbe explains. Apart from the usual adaptations for external alterations, such as new legal regulations and tax rates, there are now the routine changes of release to keep up to date.

Summary

TRM and TOTAL are satisfied with OpenTAS. "The system has proven its worth", Siegfried Rosinus summarises, pointing out the reporting, the many functionalities and the fast usage. Dieter Obst, responsible for the system: "For us, there is no alternative to OpenTAS." IT manager Jürgen Kolbe: "With the standard solution OpenTAS, Implico is clearly market leader."



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TOTAL Raffinerie Mitteldeutschland GmbH



TOTAL Raffinerie Mitteldeutschland GmbH – previously known as the Mitteldeutsche Erdoel-Raffinerie GmbH (MIDER) – is situated in Leuna/Spergau. The refinery, which belongs to the TOTAL group based in Paris, went into operation in November 1997.

Today it is a company with one of the highest turnovers in eastern Germany.

600 employees are employed in the refinery complex which was built at a cost of 2.5 billion euros. The TOTAL group has over 18 refineries and shared refineries.

A10; SAP R/3 is the trademark or registered trademark of SAP AG in Germany and in several other countries; OpenTAS is the registered trademark of Implico GmbH, Germany.

Implico

As an international consulting and software company, Implico has been helping customers from different industries with the optimization of their business processes for more than 30 years.

Projects are being implemented with comprehensive industry know-how as well as in budget and on time.

Implico offers professional, integrated consultancy and implementation services from one source.