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Success Story

Efficient Gas Station Supply

Coop Mineraloel Profits from Integrated Solution with OpenTAS® and SAP® OGSD

“With the introduction of SAP® and OpenTAS®, we have achieved a level of automation for the business processes that enables us to further pursue our growth within the gas station market.” This is the positive verdict of Walter Eberle, director of Coop Mineraloel AG (CMA) in Allschwill. CMA assigned Implico with the integration of all the logistical processes concerning the gas station supply into one system, including merchandizing and supply of mineral oil products. The project’s crucial first phase, creating a high-performance infrastructure, was successfully completed on January 1, 2006.

The company currently operates around 140 gas stations in Switzerland, with a strong upwards trend. “We are still pursuing an expansion path,” explains Jörg Berwald, head of sales and supply at CMA. The IT-system, based on AS400 and introduced 15 years ago, could not cope with these dynamics anymore. Although it was hard to say goodbye to the familiar solution which was customized to fit the specific processes – increasing maintenance problems as well as structural and technical limitations were no longer acceptable for CMA.

The search for alternatives was short: SAP OGSD exactly met the requirements. SAP OGSD (SAP Oil and Gas Secondary Distribution) is an integrated industry software, marketed by SAP and developed by Implico. “When looking for an integrated business software, you are bound to come across SAP. There are no real alternatives in the oil and gas industry.”

Expansion of the Project Scope

In the beginning, CMA’s requirements mainly focused on implementing an integrated ERP solution. During the design phase it became clear that automating the operational logistic areas as well would entail more advantages. In addition to a quick, seamless reporting and comprehensive transparency, this also includes a highly improved data quality for the ERP system. However, such advantages can only be achieved by deeply integrating the operational processes and ensuring a high-performance communication with SAP. This is accomplished through OpenTAS. The high-end logistics solution and SAP OGSD, both developed by Implico, ensure a perfect interaction. The CMA decisively expanded the project so that Implico ultimately designed and implemented the automation solution. The speedy implementation was made possible through two parallel, closely connected project parts: the SAP and the non-SAP area.

Project Part SAP & SAP OGSD

The substitution of the legacy system and introduction of SAP started in spring. The SAP system took over the financial evaluation of operational volume flows and their correct booking.

SAP OGSD, including phone server integration, now enables CMA’s sales staff to use the powerful telesales functionality, where the integrated system fully comes into its own.

Implico not only refurbished headquarters with SAP OGSD, it was also implemented at the six external sales offices; all of the direct sales now goes through SAP OGSD interfaces. Operations started in January.

Project Part OpenTAS

Parallel to the introduction of SAP, Implico also implemented the automation of the operational divisions. The aim was to quickly record all volume flows and transfer these electronically to headquarters. The crucial factor for this purpose is OpenTAS®. The system receives data from connected depots, gas stations, and carriers through interfaces. That way, seamless and current status reports can be generated.

Link-Up of Gas Stations

An important part of automation is the link-up of gas stations. The stations are

thereby equipped with electronic dip sticks that automatically measure the tank stock. Supplemented with meter readings, the data is then handed over to OpenTAS®. There they are consolidated and cleaned up, and transferred to the SAP® module SSR (Service Station Retailing), another IS OIL functionality implemented by Implico. This allows for the visualization of all of the gas station's logistic and commercial processes. Thanks to the detailed and current information concerning stock, the carriers are able to reliably serve the gas stations at the optimal point in time.

Link-Up of the Carriers

Five independent companies are working for CMA within the area of gas station supply. Within the scope of the project, each of them was equipped with the software OpenTAS® CCP (Carrier Control Panel). This module is a versatile tool, especially for the disposition optimization. Tour planning is done based on transmitted measuring levels or the prognosis according to counter data. The carriers also use CCP for data collation. The data is being verified, consolidated with the depots' loading particulars, and sent to SAP OGSD® for book entry. "Primarily, it was not a matter of automating the carrier's work," explains Implico's Project Manager Olaf Daus. "CMA needed a supporting system for quantity accounting, especially in the form of automated quantity flow with value flow."

Link-Up of the Depots

Approximately two dozen external as well as company-managed terminals are operating within the CMA network, including one refinery. The depots now communicate through an interface with the CMA system. Detailed information about every loaded truck is transmitted automatically and in real-time from the depots to OpenTAS®.

A Powerful Combination

The key to the CMA system's transparency lies in its depth of integration. "SAP® and OpenTAS® are both very strong when it comes to process automation within their area," explains

Project Manager Daus. "But the degree, which we have now achieved at CMA, is only possible through this combination." On an operational level, OpenTAS® ensures the communication between all elements of the process chain. The information is being gathered, organized, adjusted if necessary, and prepared for further processing within the ERP system. "I enter SAP® with verified, consolidated data," explains Daus. Elaborate adjustments in the ERP system are omitted, further processing is fully automated.

Advantage Transparency & Reporting

Thanks to the comprehensive reporting and its many analysis possibilities, the company will always be up-to-date on the current situation. "CMA is now able to see daily, down to almost seconds, what is happening on an operational level," says Daus.

Advantage Loss Identification

Thanks to the new transparency, CMA has also defused the often delicate subject of merchandise losses. "Due to quantity tracking, I now know exactly which gas station has been supplied with which product and by whom," says Daus. "Already on the following day the tour can be booked, and thanks to CCP's data collation, I can see which truck has had which loss."

Conclusion

"The project is proceeding positively", deems CMA's Head of Logistics Jörg Berwald. "The biggest advantage: We now have an integrated system with all



data in one overall system. That is a good thing – we will already see the benefits in the foreseeable future." The integrated solution consisting of OpenTAS® and SAP OGSD® with its automated data flow provides a seamless transparency covering the whole process chain. "That way, we can optimize our inventory and minimize loss of goods," says CMA's Head of Logistics Berwald. Naturally, the new control and steering options directly improve the company's competitiveness.



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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.

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