MOBILE PLANT MAINTENANCE-MANAGEMENT

The operating technology of Getriebebau NORD GmbH & Co. KG has introduced a mobile plant maintenance management system integrated into SAP® and has therefore ensured maximum transparency, higher efficiency and better working conditions. The solution is supplied by Flexus AG.

“Flexus convinced us from the get-go with a competent performance and has clearly exceeded our expectations regarding the solution.”

Deputy Head of Department Operating technology Getriebebau Nord GmbH & Co. KG
Metalworkers, gardeners, electricians, mechanics, janitors and many others: The workers employed in the operating technology of Getriebebau NORD are prepared for almost all repairs, service and maintenance work. The team consisting of 30 people at the location in Bargteheide near Hamburg processes around 7,000 orders annually, with requirements becoming more demanding every year.

The revenue is growing dynamically and the operating facilities in the area of automatic warehousing and the paint shop are becoming increasingly complex.

A MULTI-STAGE SELECTION PROCESS

Many orders were assigned on call and were not documented consistently. There was no structured process, from order acceptance to planning and cost calculation.

This was compounded by high administrative costs and the lack of accurate evidence documenting the capacity utilization of employees. Against this background, NORD drew up a specification sheet and examined nine potential suppliers for a computerized maintenance management system – or in short CMMS.

Flexus AG, based in Wuerzburg, was chosen at the end of this multi-stage selection process. According to Getriebebau NORD, Flexus is one of the few suppliers whose solution is directly integrated into SAP PM.

Getriebebau NORD uses SAP and, among other things, the PM module, which stands for “Plant Maintenance”. It covers all functionalities required for the processing of plant maintenance tasks. According to the SAP consultant at Getriebebau NORD GmbH & Co. KG, “The integration into SAP® played a major role in the selection of a supplier because it enabled us to avoid programming costly interfaces.” When using the guided process support for plant maintenance by Flexus AG, customers are able to plan in advance, monitor in real time, reduce downtimes and increase productivity.

The roll-out at Getriebebau NORD took place in a series of steps. After transferring the extensive master data, the processing of malfunction messages and service requirements was first migrated to the new system. These two categories account for around 90 percent of all orders. The remaining ten percent is attributable to recurring maintenance work, which is also handled by CMMS since 2018.

USER-FRIENDLY TILES

Recurring plant maintenance tasks are based on maintenance plans defined by machine manufacturers and do not require any further entry. When a measure requires action, the system generates the order, which is then displayed in the Order Cockpit. The well-arranged Cockpit is part of the user-friendly work interface presented in tile design. All open orders can be called up with a single click and can then be assigned to the right workers via Drag&Drop. A graphical representation with colored bars on a timeline makes planning much easier.

Malfunction messages and service requirements must be entered manually by the responsible foreman. This
process is also made easier by the intuitive menu navigation displayed in tile design.

The malfunction messages and service requirements entered in this manner appear, in analogy to the recurring plant maintenance work, in the Order Cockpit and can be scheduled and monitored from there.

For the ensuing execution of the work, the workers, technicians and assemblers can use smartphones and tablets with the Fiori app developed by Flexus. The plant maintenance and repair process can be accompanied, documented and completed with it.

If photos need to be taken in the course of the work, they can be taken with the mobile devices and attached to the order. Required spare parts are assigned to the order immediately and posted in SAP®.

A key advantage of the solution lies in the fact that working times are precisely documented. With the introduction of the solution, each hour is now billed via SAP® in line with the originator, which has significantly sharpened the cost awareness of the workforce. This applies to service requirements in particular.

In the past, it used to be common to “quickly have a picture hung up by a member of the operating technology staff on call”. Thanks to CMMS, such unstructured orders are a thing of the past. Today, each service must be legitimized by an order entered and approved in the system, the “quick” hanging of pictures is therefore only requested in exceptional cases.

**IMPROVED OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY**

Despite these ostensible obstacles, the operating technicians at Getriebebau NORD still have a lot of work to do. In 2018, even two additional employees were hired because with the help of the analyses that are now possible, the demand for manpower can be planned transparently and according to working times.

Thanks to the plant maintenance solution, each employee can now find out what activities he has been scheduled for, thereby reducing the risk of psychological stress.

Conclusion: Getriebebau NORD is completely satisfied with the mobile plant maintenance management provided by Flexus AG. The same applies to the course of the project and the support during implementation.

**BACKGROUND: GETRIEBEBAU NORD GMBH & CO. KG**

NORD Getriebebau is part of the NORD DRIVESYSTEMS Group, which operates globally and is one of the industry leaders in mechanical and electronic drive technology.

The product range includes gear motors, electric motors, industrial gear units, frequency converters and motor starters as well as frequency converters for decentralized drive control, which are used, for example, in harbor cranes or baggage conveyor belts at airports. The owner-managed family business was founded in 1965 and employs more than 3,900 people, generating sales of around EUR 630 million.
BACKGROUND FLEXUS AG

Flexus AG, based in Wuerzburg, specializes in optimizing intralogistics processes through innovative software products and consulting know-how. The SAP partner with mobility competence offers a holistic approach based on the analysis of potentials as well as the conception and implementation of measures that improve material flow. Many years of experience in mobile data entry and the implementation of forklift/transport guidance systems have set the basis for it. For this purpose, SAP add-ons by Flexus are used. Through direct integration with SAP®, these solutions are particularly advantageous.

BACKGROUND SOFTWARE

Flexus AG, an SAP partner, offers solutions for networked SAP® intralogistics. With these solutions, the interaction of people, processes and technologies within the company is improved. This ensures efficient processes and concrete business benefits in the spirit of industry 4.0. The mobile plant maintenance management is a component of this solution. The solution is based on SAP EAM (Enterprise Asset Management) based on SAP Fiori technology. Our applications support RFID, barcode scanning, camera and signature capture. With the Flexus add-ons, plant maintenance processes are displayed device-independently for laptops, tablets, PCs or smartphones. Messages, malfunctions and tasks can therefore be posted directly on site and the respective information can be viewed by the responsible employees. In addition to this, a well-arranged Cockpit makes planning and processing of plant maintenance orders easier.

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