

WORLDWIDE ROLL- OUT OF MOBILE SAP[®] SOLUTIONS

REFERENCE REPORT

Fuel tanks with transparent view - For quality assurance and traceability of individual components in the production of vehicle fuel tanks, automotive supplier Kautex Textron relies on the mobile data collection FLX-MOBIL by Flexus.

“

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Joerg Wojtun
Head of Production Logistics
Kautex Textron
GmbH & Co. KG
Bonn Headquarters



Extreme temperatures and tremendous shocks: When it really matters, a car's fuel tank must withstand the most severe strains. Vehicle tanks are safety-relevant and their production is therefore subject to high regulations. Kautex Textron is one of the world's market leaders for tank systems, which the company located in Bonn manufactures in 16 countries.

In 2010 already, Kautex Textron opted for a worldwide standardization and simplification of its logistics processes in order to be able to present a face to the customer within logistics, among other things. All movements between goods receipt, production supply, production confirmation, picking and goods issue had to be documented, checked and visualized.

At the same time, the dialogues in the individual process phases were to be simplified. The company was looking for an easy-to-use solution that communicates directly with the implemented SAP® ERP system and accompanies every single step of the components all the way to the fully assembled tank system. Additional Poka-Yoke tests were intended to make the process absolutely safe.

KONFIGURIEREN PER DRAG & DROP



After a thorough selection process, Kautex Textron chose the SAP Add-On FLX-MOBIL (SAP® ECC 6.0) by Flexus. "As an SAP partner, Flexus offers us a direct integration of the application in our ERP system," Christine Müller, who designs the global logistics processes at Kautex Textron together with Ria Classen, explains. Another point was made by the more than 200 already

available, ready-to-use applications or templates that can be managed by the customer on a modular basis.

Wide-ranging applications are available for warehousing, internal transports, production and order picking. The mobile transactions are standardized. The dialogs can be created via drag & drop by using a graphical Layout Designer and can be used on different devices. The solution is designed in such a way that the worldwide rollout can be carried out by our own IT staff independently of Flexus," Christine Müller emphasizes.

Specialists at Flexus only have to be involved when individual changes are made within the logistical processes. "This is the case, for example, when customers approach us with new requirements for which the processes have to be changed," explains Christine Müller.

It all started with the Belgian production plant in Tessenderlo in 2010. 16 other locations in Spain, Brazil, England, the Czech Republic, Germany and Romania followed.

"We are now working with standardized processes there, and this is something that our customers around the world really appreciate," says Christine Müller.

Meanwhile, more than 400 employees in various warehouse and production areas have already gained access to the Flexus application. More than 130 mobile handhelds are in use for this purpose.

EACH LOGISTIC UNIT IS TRACEABLE

The process of mobile data entry begins in the goods receipt warehouse. All goods arriving there are assigned a barcode label. From that moment on, the transport unit is regarded as a handling unit (HU) which can now be tracked individually throughout the entire logistics process.

After goods receipt, the HU is put away. To do this, the employee calls the application intended for putaway on his or her mobile device and scans the bar code.

From here, it goes either in complete or partial quantities to the own production of a particular site or, for example with small parts, to the preliminary supermarket. Once a new logistic unit is created, e.g. at the end of the production process, a new HU is created with its own label including barcodes. These HUs can be processed by data technology using the Flexus application in further process steps such as order picking.

REACTING ON-SITE SAVES TRANSPORT COSTS



Independently of the process step, the data of the HUs are synchronized with the ERP system immediately after entry via FLX-MOBIL, so that the current processing status is queried in the SAP system. If there are any inconsistencies, or if the data collected is incomplete, the process is stopped immediately and a warning message appears on the scanner.

“The employee can now see directly on site that something is missing and can react immediately using FLX-MOBIL,” says Jörg Wojtun, who is responsible for logistics at the site in Bonn.

In the past, without mobile data entry, a stationary computer had to be used in such cases. “After the introduction of mobile solutions, we were able to reduce the distances travelled, save time and money and at the same time increase reliability”, Jörg Wojtun confirms.

FURTHER POTENTIAL FOR SAVINGS

Since 2011, FLX-MOBIL has proven its worth at Kautex Textron and the rollout is set to be continued in the coming years. However, the project is far from being finished. After all, FLX-MOBIL offers further potential for savings and improvement, such as carrying out physical inventory. In the future, instead of relying on paper counting lists, the annual full physical inventory will also be carried out using the mobile terminals. Christine Müller has already designed the relevant process.

POKA YOKE BACKGROUND

The Japanese term “Poka Yoke” (“avoid errors”) refers to a principle consisting of several elements, which includes technical arrangements for the immediate detection and

prevention of errors. Poka Yoke is based on the belief that no human being or system is able to avoid unintentional errors completely.

With Poka Yoke, simple and effective systems are usually used to ensure that errors in the manufacturing process do not lead to errors in the final product. An example of Poka Yoke in day-to-day operation is a fuel filler cap connected to the vehicle with a rubber band.

KAUTEX TEXTRON BACKGROUND

Kautex Textron is a globally acting system supplier for the automotive and packaging industry with headquarters in Bonn, Germany.

The company, which specializes in fuel tank systems, employs 6,500 people in 16 countries and generated a revenue amounting to around 2.1 billion US dollars in 2015. This makes Kautex Textron one of the 100 top-selling automotive suppliers worldwide. Founded in 1935, the company has been dealing with blow-moulding machines and the production of plastic hollow bodies since 1949. In 1964, Kautex presented the first plastic fuel tank for passenger cars. Since 1996, the company has been part of the multi-industrial corporation Textron Inc. with a total of 34,000 employees, headquartered in Rhode Island, USA.



MOBILE SOLUTION (FLX-MOBIL) FÜR SAP®

BACKGROUND

FLEXUS AG BACKGROUND

Flexus AG, based in Würzburg, 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® ERP, these solutions are particularly advantageous.

SOFTWARE BACKGROUND

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 FLX-MOBIL series with more than 200 ready-to-use mobile transactions for the complete SAP® Intralogistics also belongs to the applications. The solutions can be used in all areas of intralogistics: from goods receipt logistics and warehouse management to production and the shipping of goods. The mobile transactions are standardized, but due to the framework they can be adapted flexibly and quickly to your individual requirements. The solutions are designed in such a way that company-wide implementation across national borders does not pose a problem and, thanks to the underlying framework, can be carried out quickly and, if necessary, with the support of your own IT division.

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