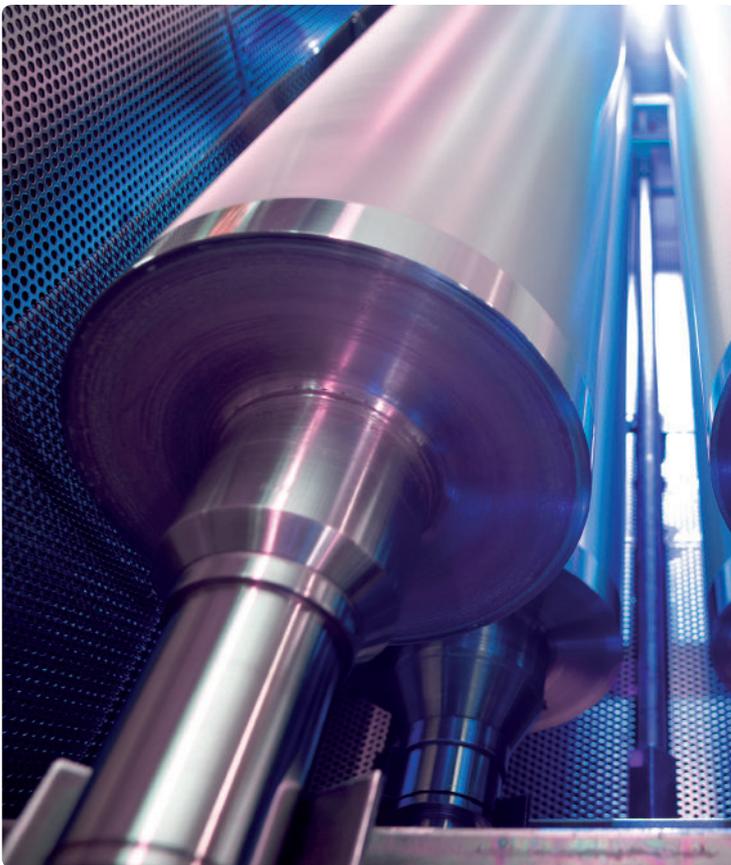


New fine tuning controls for Kurt Zecher GmbH

The international supplier of anilox rollers for the printing industry, has extended its information systems with GANTTPLAN[®], the advanced planning and scheduling software from DUALIS



Simplified Production Scheduling with DUALIS

The business at Kurt Zecher revolves around the smooth running production of anilox rollers and associated services. To get production rolling, the first step in the process, is detailed production planning, to make sure all production parameters are exactly matched to deliver the best efficiency and reliability from the system. For this, Zecher selected GANTTPLAN® software from DUALIS, with the primary focus to achieve accurate delivery dates, and balance production loads by identifying peak capacity periods in advance. GANTTPLAN is an Advanced Planning and Scheduling (APS) tool that works in tandem with Zecher's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system APplus provided by Asseco.

Zecher was founded in 1948, and specializes in the production of anilox rollers, printing technology and hard chromium plating. The company headquarters is in Paderborn, and there Zecher's four production plants produce more than 12,000 engraved anilox rollers annually. High quality products are a result of technical innovations and continuous

improvements throughout nearly 70 years of anilox roller production as well as close cooperation with most of the renowned machine manufacturers and end-users in the areas of label printing, flexible packaging, offset, coating and corrugated cardboard printing. Zecher anilox rollers are currently in use in printing machines throughout the world and supported by sales partners in 60 countries.

Complex planning tasks made easy

Due to continuous expansion and the associated demand on production, the need for a planning system was evident. "To accurately schedule the daily production of anilox rollers, taking into account all the manufacturing restrictions, it was necessary to enhance our business information system with a detailed planning and scheduling function. We needed to fine-tune the production with regard to production resources, personnel, stock availability including future deliveries and the list of orders with delivery dates. To try and manage this manually in the ERP system required a huge manual effort with only some limited success. The introduction of small batch and one-off production increased the planning complexity even further," explains Norman Knauer, the IT manager at Kurt Zecher GmbH.

The decision was made to select a planning solution to work with the APplus ERP system and GANTTPLAN® was the APS software chosen. "By considering all the manufacturing restrictions and planning parameters in combination with the complete order network, more accurate information was available about customer delivery times. In addition, early detection of possible production spikes helped avoid high congestion periods and control the utilization of production areas, and this resulted in smoother operations. In support of our Industry 4.0 strategy, we are now able to demonstrate significantly shorter response times for any unexpected changes in the order network, the available resources or supply of materials. Some of these results can also be achieved using classical ERP processes, but it is very time consuming and complex to do," adds Knauer.

The evaluation of GANTTPLAN APS software

In order to identify the exact planning functionality needed for a Kurt Zecher GmbH solution, a list of requirements and questions was prepared based on initial planning restrictions and customer needs. The requirements analysis was able to clarify all the



potential scheduling issues that GANTTPLAN® would be expected to handle, and at the same time defined an initial proof-of-concept phase for production planning. During the evaluation and requirements analysis, GANTTPLAN® scored very favourably due to its modularity and multiple solutions that were available for several planning problems.

GANTTPLAN and APplus in practice

GANTTPLAN was implemented without any system disruption during normal operations, and the solution worked without a hitch from day one.



Norman Knauer
CIO at Kurt Zecher

“Any questions that arose when we were inducting the planning results with our organizational processes were quickly dealt with based on our pre-defined project goals. The availability of immediate help from consulting and development resources and quality assurance resulted in an efficient and uncomplicated solution for Zecher.”

For Zecher, one of GANTTPLAN’s main technical advantages is the ability to produce multiple planning scenarios based on many, often conflicting, planning goals. Several scenario results can be selected and further refined to optimize the production plan. A significant benefit for the customer is the possibility to squeeze in an urgent order by evaluating any available capacity and downstream effects on production should the order be accepted. The integration between GANTTPLAN and APplus allows basic planning parameters to be modified and a scenario re-calculated based on current shop-floor data. In cases where new process specific parameters are required, DUALIS consultation is readily available to set them up in GANTTPLAN.

The added value for Kurt Zecher

The immediate benefit from GANTTPLAN was improved transparency for order deliveries. Previously critical orders were only identified after they had become overdue, and a delay already incurred. Now, all potential critical orders can be recognized at an early stage and appropriate measures taken to avoid a problem in the first place.

Another benefit is the improved communication interface between the customer and production, where any delays or requests can be responded to, with accuracy, in terms of specific delivery dates. Delivery date accuracy improved by 6 % after just two planning cycles in addition to a significant reduction in late de-

liveries. Idle WIP inventories have been reduced and any looming resource capacity bottlenecks, are now visible.

Detailed workcenter planning and personnel assignment in combination with decentralized information flows between shop-floor departments has allowed all interested parties the opportunity to view the current process and employee assignment for each particular workcenter. This use of GANTTPLAN, to review resource assignment, is an opportunity for employees to make the production planning more realistic, and is a feature helping Zecher implement more flexible, leaner and scalable processes within their organization.

Future outlook

In the medium term, the IT system will start to provide more information relevant to planning, such as data for predictive maintenance. The goal is for GANTTPLAN to be a key component of Zecher’s industry 4.0 strategy, with increased availability of information, and increased automation of the scheduling process. The goal is for an automatic scheduling system that delivers accurate delivery dates, and optimized use of resources under ever changing production environment conditions.

Facts-Check:

Objective: Schedule optimization of throughput times, improved planning accuracy and better transparency

Budget: 130,000 €

Year of implementation: 2017

Scope of License: GANTTPLAN OE, Workcenter planning, Personnel, PRT (tooling and fixtures), and MRP modules

Materials: 28,000

Production Resources / Orders: 280

Routings: approx. 14,000

Active production orders: 3,300

Special features: 6% delivery date improvement after two planning cycles

Improved: reduced WIP inventory, bottleneck and delayed order visibility



About Kurt Zecher GmbH

Kurt Zecher GmbH is an international supplier of chrome and ceramic based anilox rollers for the printing industry. The company is located at Paderborn, where four production plants produce more than 12,000 engraved anilox rollers annually. The high quality products are a result of technical excellence and continuous improvements

from over nearly 70 years of production. For many years Zecher has worked extensively with all the main machine manufacturers and end users in the fields of label printing, flexible packaging, offset printing, coating and printing of corrugated cardboard. With sales partners in around 60 countries, Zecher anilox rollers are now used in

printing presses all over the world.

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The DUALIS GmbH IT Solution

DUALIS GmbH IT Solution was founded in 1990 in Dresden, Germany and is specialized in simulation and planning software. Proprietary products GANTTPLAN, and the ISSOP optimization tool provide detailed planning and optimization of production and manufacturing processes. In addition the simulation tools from Finnish supplier Visual Components deliver 3D planning and optimization for production and logistics systems.

Users benefit in multiple ways from the DUALIS products: first during strategic planning and then through operational use. By using a 3D simulation platform, realistic mo-

del of complex production systems can already be evaluated during the planning stage. The plant simulation saves time and costs and ultimately reduces risk. Then when the facility is operational, software based production planning is used to dramatically increase the efficiency of the entire production process. Orders are optimized based on all planning restrictions and available resources, including personnel, fixtures and tools. The ability to meet delivery dead-lines is greatly improved through the ability to identify exact delivery dates. By offering production planning and 3D simulation techniques, DUALIS helps companies achieve an optimally desi-

gned facility running optimized operations.

The realistic 3D visualization from the VISUAL COMPONENTS suite is not only for internal planning processes, it also supports system integrators and machine builders to convincingly demonstrate their systems benefits and communicate new production concepts.

The **DÜRR** Group



Ihr direkter Weg zu
GANTTPLAN

Your IndiDUALIS solution

