



Short-term planning with STARLIM Spritzguss GmbH

The world's largest processor of liquid silicone uses GANTTPLAN from DUALIS for full transparency and continuous information flow while mass producing customer products.



Injection molding and tooling to plan: starlim//sterner working with GANTTPLAN

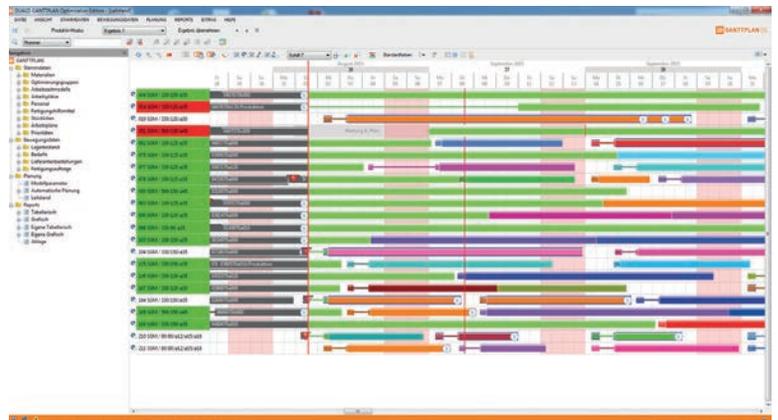
From small quantities up to several 100 million units per year - starlim//sterner is a leading supplier of silicone technical moldings and the world's largest processor of liquid silicone rubber. The silicone injected molded parts are manufactured from fully automated and process optimized production lines to produce precision parts reliably and to clean room standards when required. The highly productive production lines produce a multitude of parts for industry and consumers alike, and rely on the planning support of GANTTPLAN from DUALIS GmbH IT Solution.

starlim//sterner are specialists for injection molding systems that produce small parts made from silicone using single or compound-material processes. Over 1,100 employees work in the International organization that is active in Austria, Canada, China, Italy, and Germany. The focus is on mass manufacturing, and operations include contract manufacturing and supply to B2B, TIER-2 and TIER-3 partners.

Before a product can be released for mass production, it is prototyped and produced for functional testing so that the end product will be free from defects and fulfill the task it was intended for without failure. starlim //sterner started using GANTTPLAN in 2014 to coordinate prototype production and provide an efficient and transparent process between the planning and production groups. Today GANTTPLAN is fully integrated with the injection molding process and is delivering full transparency and a seamless flow of information between the planning and production departments.

Well planned and better produced

GANTTPLAN is an established APS (Advanced Planning and Scheduling) tool for optimization of production and manufacturing processes and is available as a standalone or cloud based solution. The software performs fine level short-term detailed planning with the results presented in a Gantt chart, graphical and tabular reports, or downloaded



Production order planning visualized in GANTTPLAN's Gantt chart

directly to production. starlim//sterner uses GANTTPLAN to plan the injection lines with the tooling, to get a realistic and optimized production schedule: on demand. The company benefits from the high degree of flexibility that GANTTPLAN delivers for their planning requirements - especially incorporating new tool design and interleaving prototype production with the customer runs. The next planned step for GANTTPLAN is to widen the planning scope beyond the injection molding lines, to include starlim//sterner's internal machine and tooling build processes.

From prototypes to production

Before deciding on GANTTPLAN, planning managers at starlim //sterner were already working with an integrated planning tool. But with rapid expansion and exponential growth in production volumes, the planning process had become increasingly more complex. "Our previous system could not keep up, we had simply outgrown it" says Markus Bründl, Operations Manager at sterner //starlim.



Markus Bründl,
Operations Manager at
starlim//sterner

"We had arrived at a point where there were so many planning parameters and options to handle, it was just overwhelming and not humanly possible to efficiently plan the production, unless we got very lucky."



“Today we are making massive time savings. What used to take several hours, now takes seconds and we get a viable plan. We can schedule 1000 orders in just 40 seconds.”

Markus Raab, Assistant Production Manager
at starlim//sterner

starlim//sterner needed a tool that could grow with the needs of the company but, as a first step, could manage the injection molding process. It was important that the knowledge from internal planning experts could be incorporated into GANTTPLAN to support their daily tasks, while maintaining a good balance between humans and technology. To evaluate the software, starlim //sterner developed a feasibility study for an injection molding machine area, to demonstrate potential benefits. The project included interfacing to their ERP system, and demonstrated that while integration to their specific ERP would be a challenge, GANTTPLAN could be easily introduced as an add-on.

“The intuitive interface, high level of functionality and the competent support from DUALIS convinced us already in the test phase. We saw a very customizable solution that was easily adaptable to our needs now and in the future. Also, the price-performance ratio and the deep level of production planning expertise from DUALIS, the software supplier, was really appreciated. We rolled out GANTTPLAN over a 5 month period in parallel to ongoing operations without any disruptions - the „open heart surgery“ worked very smoothly. In addition, as an acid test for the new tool, a colleague who joined during the launch phase was just literally thrown in the deep end and told to do some planning,” says Günter Fuchs Berger, Production Manager at starlim//sterner. “With virtually no experience in planning, he was able to use GANTTPLAN from the outset to generate really optimum production schedules” adds Fuchs Berger.

Over 1,000 jobs in 40 seconds

Today, GANTTPLAN is used to plan the tooling, create a sequence for all the orders, and plan the assignment of production resources and resource groups. The production plan is divided into pre-series planning (prototypes) and Series Planning (mass production), all which run through the same production lines. Each planner works with their local GANTTPLAN model, but in a collaborative planning process.

“We just don’t get planning errors anymore,” says Markus Raab, Assistant Production Manager at starlim//sterner. “For example, we used to get double booked tooling, or under and over staffed operations, but this has been completely eliminated. We have good



transparency in our planning process which is really essential for us to have. We also have vastly improved the data quality in our ERP, which is another benefit from working with GANTTPLAN. The solution is the ideal tool for our highly experienced planners. In combination with this technology our planning competence has grown, and continues to evolve in-step with the growth of the company and its employees”

“Other positive features were the tool’s flexible and modular functions that were easily adapted to incorporate company specific processes and color schemes to give results in a format that we wanted.”

“Overall starlim//sterner improved its quality procedures through increased transparency, time savings, error prevention and a wider scope for planning activities.

The ability to adapt and extend the tool without fuss has already led to plans for the next phase where it will be used to manage the in-house manufacturing of tools and molding machinery. Then we will have the A-Z of effective and efficient planning.”



About starlim//sterner

They are in your car, in baby soothers, kitchen drawers, visible or not, to name but a few examples. starlim//sterner, the specialist for tools and for injection molding produces small parts made from silicone using single or compound-material processes. We concentrate on mass production. As an international group,

active in Austria, Canada, China, Italy, Germany we produce produce more than 14 billion silicone parts per annum. starlim//sterner is a contract manufacturer, B2B supplier and TIER-2 and TIER-3 supplier and the world's largest processor of liquid silicone rubber.

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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 optimization tool ISSOP provide detailed planning and optimization of production and manufacturing processes. In addition the simulation tools from Finnish 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. Using a 3D simulation platform, realistic models of complex production systems can already

be evaluated during the planning stage. The plant simulation saves time and costs and ultimately reduces risk. Software based production planning significantly increases 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 increased significantly by identifying exact delivery dates. Combining production and 3D simulation results in an optimally designed facility running optimised operations.

The realistic 3D visualisation from the VISUAL COMPONENTS suite is not only for internal planning processes, it also supports system integrators

and machine builders to convincingly demonstrate their system's benefits and communicate new production concepts.

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