



AN OPEN ERP SYSTEM

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In the growth process of a company, it often becomes apparent which are the most important requirements for the ERP system. For HS Luftfilterbau, the company software must not be the reason for restrictions. Functional scope and adaptability are essential.

HS-Luftfilterbau GmbH, based in Kiel, Germany, holds a leading position in the field of air filtration in air conditioning and ventilation systems of all sizes. For more than 40 years, the company is manufacturing everything, from a complete "standard air filter program" to individual system solutions. With the most advanced production facilities, quality assurance processes and manufacturing methods, the company is able to align itself precisely to the needs of the customer and also focuses on this customer orientation on a daily basis: "Whatever is desired and technically feasible is manufactured by us. If necessary, even in quantities of one," explains Malte Schuldt, CEO of HS Luftfilterbau GmbH. In addition to precise work, the team relies on manufacturing robots, pleating machines and scan test equipment.

Thus, the manufacturing spectrum is correspondingly extensive: More than 80,000 product variants are produced, from simple pocket filters for filtration, from coarse dusts to ULPA (Ultra-efficient Particle Airfilter) filters. All items in the configuration specified by the customers. "The areas of application for our filters are diverse," explains Malte Schuldt. "For example, filter systems play an important role in the maintenance of buildings and their furnishings. For filtering odors, coarse and fine dusts or contaminants, but also in economic terms, for example, to prevent hazards." And environments with certain hygiene standards, such as operating rooms in hospitals and areas of the food or pharmaceutical industries, also have high standard requirements. Even in areas of the metal and mechanical engineering industries, product quality depends on how free the air is from fine dusts.

It must fit

The previously used ERP system reached its limits at some point as the company evolved and was the reason for a wide variety of restrictions. "Our flexible production is able to meet demands for special designs quickly and cost-effectively. We are focused on individuality. That's why we need an ERP system that offers exactly this flexibility," recalls Arne Petersen, head of quality assurance, about the decision for a new enterprise solution. "At first, we didn't find any software that combined our requirements in terms of functional scope, appealing interface and customizability." During a visit to a trade fair, the company's attention was drawn to caniasERP from IAS GmbH, and the decision was already clear after the first in-house presentation. In a test phase, all requirements could be mapped, so that already 8 months later, at the beginning of 2020, the new system was introduced. Because of the special processes, there are many adjustments: "We are very individual in many areas. The structure of caniasERP with an unchanged standard layer and another layer for customizations is a blessing in terms of upgradeability." In this way, individual processes remain intact even during a release upgrade.

In use

Due to the limitation of the old system, various applications were knitted around the ERP over the years. "With caniasERP, we want to bring all these different applications back into a common structure," is Malte Schuldt's goal. However, the tight timeframe for the implementation did not make it possible to put the system into operation with all

modules immediately. "This is where the modular structure is really helpful. We can take things step by step." Currently, the next project phase is underway to introduce more modules.

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And in the meantime, Arne Petersen's focus has shifted so that he is increasingly overseeing the further development of caniasERP and his own processes. He finds the cooperation with IAS extremely positive: "Availability is a decisive criterion for us. We want a service provider that is accessible and quickly ready with solutions." That is the case here, he says. "Almost any further development of internal processes can be accompanied by minor or major changes in the ERP system. This adaptability of the system is the big advantage for us." Just now, the triggering of Kanban orders was automated, which previously had to be triggered manually; in the meantime, caniasERP takes over this task.

In the future as well

Thus, the company is now open to future developments: "Since caniasERP can process and prepare data in every conceivable form, we are convinced that no matter what requirement we have, it can also be implemented," Arne Petersen is convinced. So there are always new objectives and ideas: "Particularly with regard to AI, we are interested in topics such as setup time optimization on our dispensing systems. Due to the large number of geometries, this has been difficult so far. That will certainly be one of the next projects we tackle."



