



COVER STORY

Process optimi- zation in medium- sized businesses



Höckh 
Lean-Concept III

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Interview with Joachim Höckh, Managing Director, Höckh Metall-Reinigungsanlagen GmbH and Kai Klussmann, Production Manager

Höckh Metall-Reinigungsanlagen GmbH is an owner-managed, medium-sized family business in its second generation. Joachim Höckh, you are the managing director of the company. Which core activities do you offer? JOACHIM HÖCKH: As an international system partner of the metalworking industry, our credo is: Perfect cleanliness. Our Multiclean cleaning systems are in use internationally as an integral part of the process chain in many industrial production facilities. Since demand-oriented cleaning systems for components are rarely standard products, we develop and manufacture them to fit our customers' applications. Our users worldwide appreciate our competence and the high-quality system technology, because we always develop individual solutions for their specific applications.

As ERP software you are using caniasERP. When was it introduced and why? KAI KLUSSMANN: We started to search for a solution that could be ideally adapted to our needs and decided to use caniasERP in 1991. At that time it was decisive that the software was the only available ERP software on PC basis.

What is the biggest benefit for you today in using caniasERP? KLUSSMANN: These are clearly the integrated materials management and procurement through the automated import of bills of materials from the CAD system. Via the purchase requisition (BANF), the requirements from the bill of materials can be easily initiated and further processed in purchasing.

In how far does industry 4.0 play a role for you and which possibilities does caniasERP offer in this context? KLUSSMANN: As a plant manufacturer, we have a high manual production share and the focus lies on machine work and the integration of new machines, the topic of Industry 4.0 currently still plays a rather subordinate role. But all in all we want to make our company and our products ready for the future and caniasERP facilitates our processes.

How important is the possibility of cross-process control of complex manufacturing processes for you? KLUSSMANN: This topic is very important for us, especially in the field of materials management or the calculation of plants and assemblies.

Looking back - where has the caniasERP/AutoCAD interface simplified your workflows and made them more future-proof? KLUSSMANN: Thanks to the interface, we were able to achieve a significant gain in time during the project. In addition, the import of bills of materials gives us much more transparency in the cost calculation.

And what are the advantages in the interface between AutoCAD/Inventor and caniasERP for you? HÖCKH: On the one hand, this is the influence on quality, and on the other hand, it is the influence on time. We notice a significant increase in quality. For example, there are no more errors that can occur, for example, when transferring bills of materials „by hand“. In addition there are now only consistent data between the construction (CAD) and caniasERP. Altogether it is much easier for each department within the company now to

have a secure access to the design and manufacturing data. In addition, long waiting times and thus downtimes are eliminated, resulting in significant time savings. The finished information from the project planning are immediately available.

Are there errors that can be avoided by the interface? HÖCKH: We can reduce production errors caused by outdated data due to the interface. And also in manual data transfer, as mentioned above, we minimize the potential for errors through the interface.

Do you have plans for the use of caniasERP in the future? For example, should the functional range be extended and if so, where? HÖCKH: Currently we are planning to expand the range of functions especially in the areas of production document linking and document management. The cooperation is based on a very close partnership, which means that we regularly see good further development here.

Is the topic „mobile“ for the access to caniasERP an important point for you? HÖCKH: Of course, we can see that mobile access is becoming increasingly important in general. There is still great potential in being able to access data and processes independent of time, place and hardware - both for us and our customers. There are potential advantages here, especially in the service and maintenance business. So yes, mobile access will play an important role for us.

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