



Westag & Getalit AG, Rheda-Wiedenbrück (Germany)

Company developments are changing – it.wood is adapting

»We have relied on SAP ERP for many years – particularly because this system is so investment safe. All kinds of business development can be supported by itelligence and the it.wood industry solution. Our latest common highlight is the introduction of SAP Business Intelligence on SAP NetWeaver – an outstanding information basis for our management. And that certainly won't be the last optimization.«

Ulrich Koch, IT Manager, Westag & Getalit AG

itelligence

We wanted it all, right now – it.wood was the solution.

Perfect solutions are our standard.

With short response times and quicker business processes, SAP ERP has supported many business processes of the European wood-based product manufacturer Westag & Getalit of Rheda-Wiedenbrück, Germany, for many years. And because the introduction of the modules for financial accounting, controlling and procurement ran smoothly, the company also decided to connect its logistics operations to SAP. The user-friendly intelligence industry solution it.wood timber for the wood industry particularly impressed the decision-makers at Westag & Getalit. it.wood offers additional add-ons which exactly meet the demands of the industry.

The advantages are clear; all processes can be made transparent. The high degree of integration of the system also ensures transparent information. This transparent data and the comprehensive analysis possibilities form an ideal basis for current decisions in management. The IT administration process was also completely restructured with the SAP system.

The new solution is more user friendly and is significantly easier to maintain, as Ulrich Koch, IT Manager at Westag & Getalit, explains: "We are now in a position to meet requirements much more quickly and without loss resulting from

technical problems with a reduced team. The integration of individual modules means that interfaces, which were extremely susceptible to errors in the old systems, can be omitted."

Migration to a high-performance platform

However, over time new requirements of the SAP system arose in the company. This was not a problem for it.wood, because the scaleable SAP All-in-One solution was easily adapted to other company developments. The dissolution of the previous hardware environment was the next big step toward the future. With help from intelligence, Westag & Getalit migrated to the stable and high-performance platform of a Windows 2000 server and an Oracle database, which offers integrated web security and communications technology. The cluster, which houses the server including the data storage, also ensures highest availability. To meet the highest standards of security in all areas, the systems were accommodated in different parts of the building. Even in the event of a fire, the productive system can be recreated. By implementing this measure, Westag & Getalit has attained a key objective; the SAP system now offers availability of 99.87% – thus the best possible security.

No problem integrating human resources

Westag & Getalit perceived further need for action. The SAP system also needed to be integrated into the human resources (HR) processes. Two systems had previously been responsible for this task; Asring Lohn & Gehalt/400 was responsible for payroll accounting and ATOSS SES for employee time management. Two systems which required interfaces – a maintenance intensive solution. HR management and the IT department also wanted an integrated system in this area which made information available transparently. The intelligence team saw the best solution in the SAP

Westag & Getalit AG

As an important European manufacturer of wood-based and plastic products, Westag & Getalit AG offers its customers bespoke solutions from one source in three company divisions: Plywood/Formwork, Doors/Frames and Laminates/Elements are flexibly produced at two locations by over 1,250 employees. State-of-the-art production and polished logistics enable the company to meet customer needs for favorably priced products and high quality with short delivery times, regardless of whether mass-produced, small-lot production or individual tailored production. A service which also succeeds outside Germany – 25.2% of goods were exported in 2007.



HR module. HR maps all processes – from master data management to salary, wage and pension calculation.

The IT department of Westag & Getalit, together with the intelligence team, supplemented the HR functions using its additional in-house developments. A vacation preview was implemented – as was the access control and time data capture. Even the company's own bonus scheme was successfully converted. HR statistics are also now automatically created in the highly integrated system. The application manager was then migrated to SAP HR, where applications can be much better archived.

"A good, quick source of information of lasting use," was one employee in HR management's description of the HR modules, who also praised the versatile evaluation possibilities, the integration in particular into the financial accounting and cost accounting and the outstanding test possibilities using simulated settlement.

SAP PI offers enhanced data exchange with external systems

The continuous collaboration between both partners is bearing fruit: obsolete systems at Westag & Getalit have been gradually superseded by state-of-the-art technologies. Many orders for stock goods are received daily via EDI and automatically transferred to the SAP system. However, PC systems are also available to customers to generate orders with configured articles, which naturally must also be transferred automatically to the SAP system. The NetWeaver components SAP Exchange Infrastructure (SAP PI, formerly SAP XI), was selected, which integrates cross-system application processes. The business process definition and the resulting XML-based data exchange between the participating productive customer systems in the SAP and non-SAP area are managed and controlled by a central SAP PI server. Only a unified interface is now responsible for the data transfer between the external systems.



Name:
Westag & Getalit AG

Industry:
Wood and plastic products

Products:
Plywood/Formwork, Doors/Frames and Laminates/Elements

Company size:
approx. 1,250 employees

Revenues:
EUR 225 million in 2007

Headquarters:
Rheda-Wiedenbrück, Germany

Transparent information provides a sound basis for decisions

With SAP Business Intelligence, itelligence and Westag & Getalit have laid another firm foundation for continued business success. Informative data and figures are now available to the decision-makers, which they can use to further optimize their business processes. "For me, the high cost transparency, from the offer to the order phase to production and delivery, is one of the greatest advantages of this fully integrated system," said the head of work scheduling for Doors/Frames. "We know the exact costs at which we are producing and also have complete control of the fine adjustment to the costs of each individual order in the work scheduling department.

As a result, extensive cost awareness has grown over recent years in all areas of production." The head of controlling added: "The quality of our controlling instruments has improved drastically since introducing SAP. We have become faster, have significantly increased the informative nature of our information and at the same time eliminated many manual operations."

The itelligence team first installed the BI solution on SAP NetWeaver. However, the extraordinary movement of material in dimensions specific to wood products at Westag & Getalit required precise analysis of the processes. The itelligence and Westag & Getalit project team overcame these difficulties during intense collaboration. At the end of the project, the participants appreciated the good cooperation over the various projects, it being the best foundation for future projects.



Facts & Figures

Solution: it.wood timber with the FI, CO, HR, SD, MM and PP modules; latest release: SAP ERP 6.0

Hardware: Fujitsu Siemens

The advantages:

- Representation of all business divisions in one system
- Lower maintenance expense due to homogenous system environment
- High integration and transparency
- Best system performance with intelligent product data model in connection with it.wood variant configuration
- Extensive cost transparency as a result of highly efficient reporting