

CASE STUDY

Agility even at -40 degrees Transparency and open standards ensure efficient production.



WESTFLEISCH SCE mbH

Region:
Münster, Germany
Industry:
Meat industry
Topic focus:
Efficient Production

At Westfleisch SCE GmbH in Münsterland, the implementation went quickly and smoothly. This reference case on the standardization of shop floor communication with SAP Digital Manufacturing shows what the goal was, which milestones have already been reached, and where the journey can go.

When the juicy grilled meat sizzles over the embers again in summer, we don't think about the complex processes the food has gone through to land so fresh on our plates. With sales of EUR 2.6 billion and around 7,000 employees, Westfleisch is one of the leading meat processors in Germany. Quality, partnership, regionality and fairness determine the actions at Westfleisch. The cooperative and its employees stand for sustainable meat production with guaranteed quality, origin and safety.

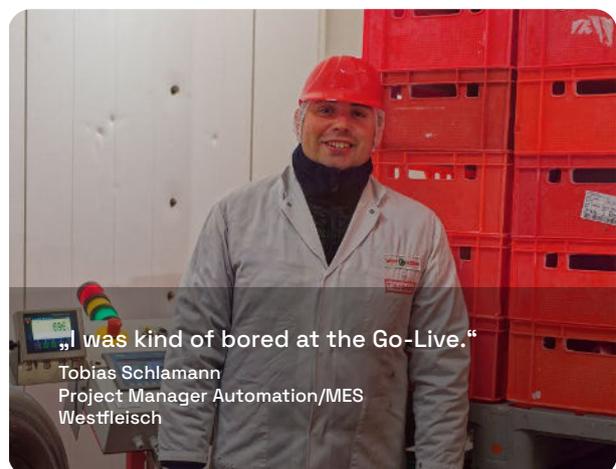
Digitalization is advancing, and why not use the data generated at the machine to implement and visualize production processes right away? "However, with the existing IT processes and third-party systems, this was always only possible with quite a lot of external support and high development and adaptation efforts," says Tobias Schlamann, project manager automation/MES at Westfleisch responsible for the digital transformation of production processes.

Shopfloor as standard

With SAP as the leading group software, the initial goal was therefore to integrate the shopfloor into the processes close to the SAP standard. The standard should help to reduce the grown structures of in-house developments

and to be able to implement and roll out processes faster. SAP was quickly selected as the provider because of its investment security in terms of company stability and product development. Trebing + Himstedt as a consulting and implementation partner due to its experience in production processes and SAP systems was also decided quite early. The SAP systems used were primarily SAP Manufacturing Integration and Intelligence (SAP MII) and for the machine connection SAP Plant Connectivity (SAP PCo).

The project phase was then implemented very quickly in just six sprints using three use cases as milestones.



In 3 use cases from order to outsourcing

Connectivity

In Use Case 1, order data was transferred from the ERP to the shop floor via IDoc. This provided an end-to-end digital communication channel in SAP as the basis for paperless production and order processing.

Agile storage

In Use Case 2, the storage of ready-portioned meat products on pallets was implemented as a handling unit in the freezers. Here, the ERP specifies the freezing time and also the lane on which the frozen goods run through the -40 C° cold freezer. If a lane is not available, e.g. due to a malfunction, there may now be changes in the process. In this case, another lane is automatically selected and, if necessary, freezing times are adjusted. "The relief for the employees is particularly noticeable here. Production planning dictates that the pallet is placed on top and that's it," says Schlamann enthusiastically. There is also better transparency here with regard to the planned time from the ERP and the remaining time in real time. This means that it is always clear when the pallet is finally frozen and can be processed further.

Automatic outsourcing

The third use case describes the process of retrieval from storage after the specified freezing time. The integration

of the electronic scales as the "process completed" trigger then provides automated feedback to the ERP. The goods are then either collected in the company's own warehouse management system or sent directly to the customer. In the past, this process still required a lot of manual work and paper. Now, quantities and times are recorded and booked automatically.

Overall, Schlamann is very satisfied with the status quo. Finally, thanks to the knowledge transfer accompanying the project and the close teamwork with Trebing + Himstedt, it is also possible to add own machine connections or make changes to the dashboard. Even minor customizing is possible without a developer. This means that ideas are just bubbling up as to where Industry 4.0 and intelligent production can still go.

On the one hand, the comparability of key figures thanks to increased transparency or also the easier fulfillment of individual customer wishes are on the wish list. Migration to the cloud for even more scalability is also a realistic option. We have been able to achieve three goals at once with the first milestone, more efficiency, more flexibility and at the same time more stable processes in quality assurance. The first milestones definitely make us want to do more, because the project went smoothly from the very helpful blueprint from the Solution Design Workshop to the go-live. "I was practically bored during the go-live," Schlamann states admiringly.



About Trebing + Himstedt

Trebing + Himstedt is a consultant for digital transformation to intelligent factories and products.

Through an agile approach and pioneering spirit, we create innovations that inspire and generate added value at an early stage. For realization, we leverage SAP's Cloud Innovations portfolio for digital manufacturing & IoT based on the SAP Business Technology Platform, complemented by an extensive eco partner network.

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Contact

Trebing & Himstedt
Prozeßautomation GmbH & Co. KG
Wilhelm-Hennemann-Str. 13
19061 Schwerin, Germany
Web: www.t-h.de
Phone.: +49 385 39572-0
Email: info@t-h.de