

 infor

CASE STUDY

WEPA Group drives growth and operational efficiency using Infor CloudSuite EAM

Founded in 1948 as the Westfälische Papierfabrik in Arnsberg, the WEPA® Group has developed into a market leader in the manufacturing of hygiene paper products. Today, with around 3,800 employees, the company generates sales of approximately 1.2 billion euros and runs 12 locations across Europe. The company has 21 paper machines and more than 90 processing machines for rolled and folded hygiene paper products.

As one of the leading hygiene paper product manufacturers in Europe, the WEPA Group operates in a capital- and energy-intensive industry. Strong competition and rising costs for energy and raw materials have led to an increasingly challenging market environment. To remain competitive, it's imperative for the company to have efficient organizational processes.

**Headquarters**

Arnsberg, Germany

Annual sales

1.2 billion EU

IndustryPaper tissue and
towel manufacturing**Employees**

3,800

Infor product

Infor CloudSuite™ EAM

Websitewepa.de

“ The Infor CloudSuite EAM project has been a complete success at WEPA. The results and KPIs achieved have exceeded our initial expectations and help us meet our future challenges.”

STEFAN PFANNKUCHEN

Head of Corporate Technology, WEPA Group

Challenging business environment

WEPA owns a diverse mix of associated companies within the tissue and towel manufacturing and converting industry. Several of WEPA's production sites were acquired from other companies. As a result, the company operated its internal processes based on an inconsistent and incompatible system landscape.

By the end of 2014, WEPA had reached a critical size in terms of maintenance systems. It was incredibly challenging to introduce standardized processes within the maintenance department because of the many disparate systems at all locations. This lack of standardization and consistency made it extremely difficult for WEPA to function efficiently. It was crucial for the company to find an appropriate business solution that could help it address its operational inefficiencies and ultimately improve the bottom line.

Finding a comprehensive solution

In order to address its functional challenges, WEPA needed a system that offered a comprehensive suite of enterprise asset management capabilities. Especially important was the capability to collect equipment and facilities data around specifications, warranties, service contracts, replacement parts, purchases, expected life, and preventive maintenance.

Doing its due diligence, WEPA's management team found that Infor® CloudSuite EAM not only had the functions and features needed to improve efficiency, but it also had sophisticated reporting and analysis tools that would allow the team to plan its manufacturing orders in detail, including material reservation and costing. Mobility was one of the determining factors for the organization because it would directly benefit maintenance technicians, enabling them to roam between connected and disconnected environments without having to worry about losing application performance.

WEPA has improved the uptime of production plant and machinery within its high-volume manufacturing environment, reduced the carried inventory of engineering stocks within its portfolio, and delivered return on investment (ROI) for the entire standardization project.

Business challenges:

- Enhancing operational efficiency
- Enabling faster decision-making
- Increasing throughput
- Reducing IT overhead while managing asset maintenance at multiple sites

Cost-effective, scalable deployment

Due to its multiple locations, WEPA decided to deploy Infor EAM in the cloud, which eliminated the need to maintain an IT hardware landscape at each site. A multi-tenant deployment model offered a shared, secure infrastructure that could scale up when they needed more capacity or scale down during off-peak times. With the help of Infor partner IHM AG, the system implementation started at the Müschede location in 2016 and the other sites followed over the next twelve months. WEPA leveraged Infor ION open middleware as part of Infor OS to facilitate connection between the respective locations.

The transformative impact

Infor CloudSuite EAM helps WEPA standardize its maintenance processes across the company, streamline workflow, automate business rules, and achieve more detailed tracking of assets. The fully web-architected solution with an advanced integrated suite of modules allows the organization to have flexible business operations.

Corporate planning especially benefits from the EAM implementation. The solution's work management features make it easy for WEPA's team to effectively plan for and allocate personnel resources, which, in turn, facilitates asset localization and has enabled product feasibility studies.

Moreover, EAM's intuitive and versatile interface make employee training and adoption easy by allowing users to readily access the information and functionality that best suits their specific roles. In terms of reporting, the follow-up tools simplify management of maintenance activities and have proven to be particularly useful in the processing of the work order backlog.

With CloudSuite EAM, WEPA has improved the uptime of production plant and machinery within its high-volume manufacturing environment, reduced the carried inventory of engineering stocks within its portfolio, and delivered return on investment (ROI) for the entire standardization project. Infor's asset management solution has helped improve machine utilizations and enabled higher profitability at WEPA.

Expanding footprint

Infor CloudSuite EAM is a highly scalable solution that continues to support the company's growth and expansion. The success of the EAM project has led to expansion of Infor's footprint at WEPA. In order to systematically execute building condition assessment and manage the health and maintenance of its facilities, WEPA has decided to implement Infor CloudSuite Facilities Management with EAM at its core.

Business results:

- Enhanced productivity through standardized processes and streamlined workflows
- Delivered faster work order processing via Improved data accessibility and reporting
- Increased profitability due to higher machine uptime and reduced inventory of engineering stocks
- Lowered total cost of ownership by eliminating IT infrastructure at each site

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