



abas ERP



IT as solid as steel

User report Düker GmbH & Co. KGaA.



Industry

Iron Foundry

Countries

Germany

Project Overview

- Synchronizing various departments
- Multi level distribution
- Plan and manage production processes



IT as solid as steel: A contemporary German iron foundry with origins back to the 15th century optimizes its business processes with abas Business Software.

It is not as long as the company's existence, but 12 years in the fast-paced IT-industry seems to be eternal as well. That long, abas Business Software assists Düker GmbH & Co. KGaA. Düker has a broad product range. Focused on casting and surface refinement, different products are manufactured for different application areas. This is challenging their business-IT in terms of flexibility, modification and releasability. Since 1997 abas ERP meets these requirements successfully. Through constant updates Düker benefits from technological progress without losing individual adjustments to the software. A complete restructuring of logistics can be easily represented in abas ERP.

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*Michael Zentgraf
Project Manager
Düker*

Quality pays off

Since 500 years, the Bavarian company Düker deals with cast iron. Their production is based on two locations. Products for structural and civil engineering, the chemical and pharmaceutical industry, or even complete foundry plants are manufactured, as well as customized orders for national and international customers. Quality pays off and is the reason why one of the oldest foundries in Germany is so successful.

IT reached its limits

In 1996, Düker decided to look for a new business software. Until then, various isolated solutions were used. Data had to be administrated multiple times and transparency was limited. Michael Zentgraf is Project Leader with Düker and has been actively involved in the selection process. He remembers, “Modifications with the old system were difficult. Since it had to cover multiple business areas, there was a high demand in flexibility. This was simply not given in our old system that was build on different isolated solutions. In addition, data transfer from one application to another was very time consuming and error-prone.”



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Precise requirements

“It was clear to us from the start,” continues Michael Zentgraf, “that not every PPC-system would meet our requirements. We do batch and individual production, which makes flexible software even more important. Due to experiences with our old system, we were looking for an integrated solution. From purchasing and sales to production and materials management to accounting, everything should be included. Besides, the software should adjust to our processes, not vice versa.” ABAS answered that call.

Multi-level distribution

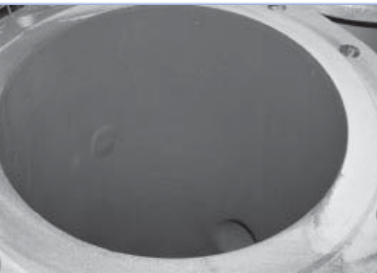
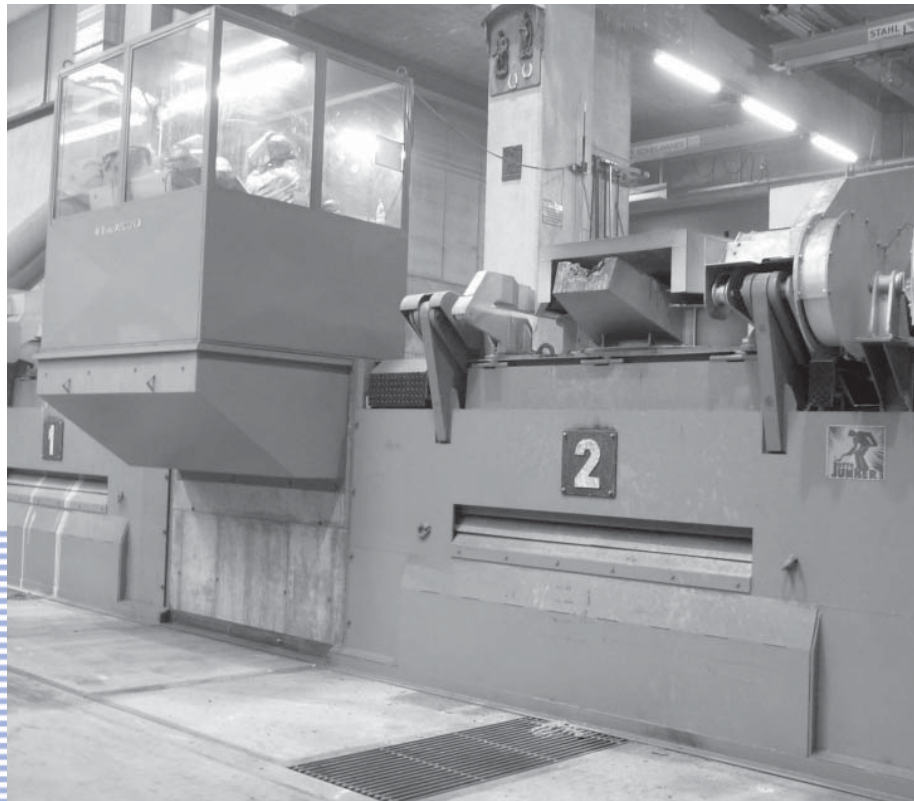
The reasons to decide in favor of abas Business Software were the following to Düker’s IT Director Christian Kern, “We also supply sanitary wholesale which has a multi-level distribution. abas ERP represented it the best. We were not looking for 5 to 6 individual packages but for a single flexible and sustainable solution. abas Business Software meets these requirements 100%.”

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IT changeover in stages

The changeover did not take place on a single day. On July 1st, 1997, the drainage technologies department was first to go live. Simultaneously, the complete accounting was restructured. In 1999, the branch of acrylic tubs and shower doors, that belonged to Düker Group back then, followed in the process. On October 1st, 2000, the "TE - technical enamel" department went live and exactly 4 years after start, "molded parts and mountings" completed the process.

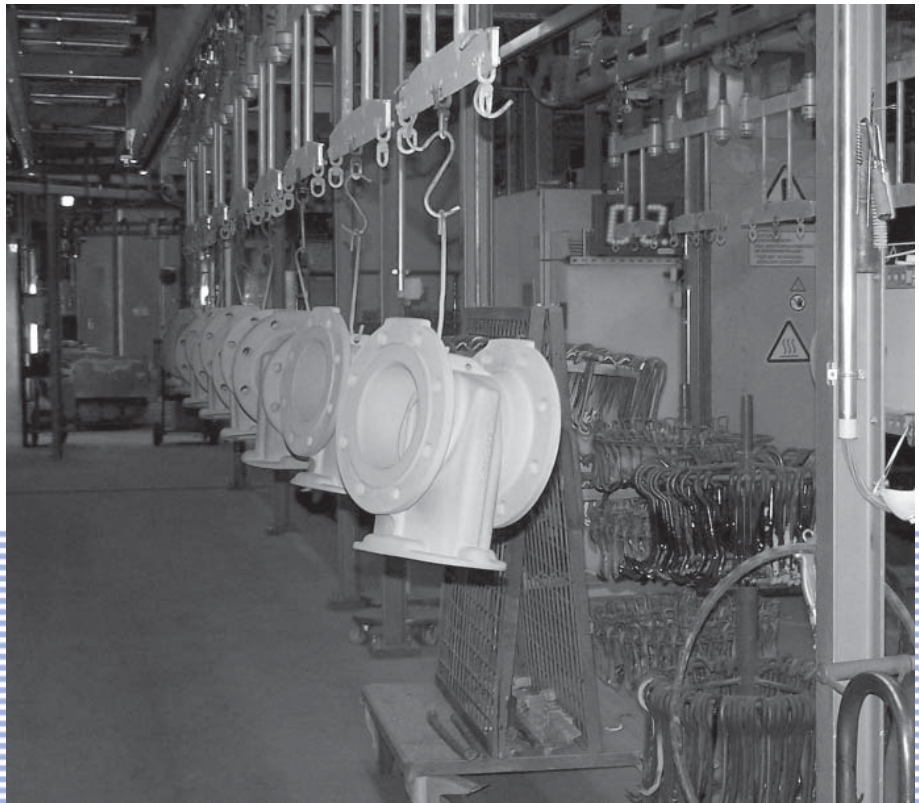


Evolutionary and always up to date

Since introducing the system in 1997, Düker frequently updated abas Business Software. The company's high expectations were even excelled in upgradeability. Christian Kern, Head of IT, "I am excited about the opportunities abas Business Software provides through its software architecture, especially with upgradeability. In the recent years, we adjusted our most important features multiple times, which is easily done with the software's integrated flexible user interface. These modifications remain unchanged after a system update. We are implementing modifications and updates ourselves. A system update is usually completed over the weekend. If we have limited capacity, we can always refer to our assisting abas software partner. We are now having a very structured IT environment which provides an optimal administration of resources. That helps us to reduce and maintain IT expenses to a minimum. For 300 users within the Düker-Group, we just need 5 employees in IT's core team. Among them are two application programmers. This is only possible because abas ERP is an open system and we can do without isolated solutions. If you sum up all according costs including maintenance and update costs, abas Business Software is really ahead of the competition. Michael Zentgraf is convinced by the ERP software with its origins in Karlsruhe as well, "For many years, we are creating functions on our own that are not part of the standard. Exemplary is capacity management in hand molding or a product generator, which we have already programmed in 1997. With the software's adaptability our continuous improvement process is optimally supported. Most of our employees are not even asking anymore whether software adjustments are possible or not. They rather would like to know when adjustments will be completed."

abas Business Software at Düker

The extensive PPC functionalities of abas ERP allow Düker to plan and manage production processes parallel. In addition to large-volume production the software plans and manages small series as well. Internally, warehouse management is completely processed in the system. Through an additional programming and a WLAN connection, warehouse staff can access all warehousing activities on screens mounted to their forklifts. All movement of goods are instantly processed in the chaotic warehouse. Since all stock movement does not require any paperwork anymore, expenditure of work has been significantly reduced.



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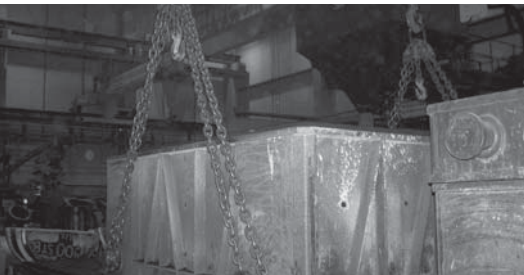
The transparency of abas Business Software to integrate additional solutions and functions is a great benefit to the storage system. The logistician who commissions, stocks and ships all goods of both warehouses, is directly linked up. Through this integration, the system promptly shows all stocks and stock movements. Complex pricing logics are represented in different business unit's sales processes. Within the structural and civil engineering units, EDIFACT-messages are exchanged with customers through the software's integrated EDI-functionality. A huge advantage is order-automization with integrated pricing logic in abas-ERP. Afterwards, invoicing is initiated in an automized process as well. Beyond that, abas-EDI-integration and EDIFACT advise automatic delivery.

Satisfied Customers

As a next step, the Bavarian cast iron specialist wants to directly administrate their CAD-system's product management in abas ERP through integration. An expansion of the already integrated plant engineering and construction unit will be realized as well. Further on, a PDM, PLM and document management system will be linked up to abas Business Software. Christian Kern: "Besides optimal resource planning for our entire company, abas Business Software supports a structured and standardized development of our information technology. We are using abas Business Software since 1997 and are consistently excited of all the opportunities it provides us."

Project Support:

ABAS Consulting GmbH & Co. KG



abas Business Software

abas Business Software is a flexible, adaptable and future-proof complete business solution (ERP, PPC, MRP, eBusiness) for midsize companies. The flexible ERP standard software optimizes business processes in the company. Manifold optional Web and eBusiness applications can be implemented. The clear structure and well thought-out implementation strategy of abas Business Software enables a short implementation period, as well as a trouble-free integration into the company structure. Specific requirements can be integrated into abas ERP at a minimal effort. New functions and technologies are constantly added to the standard software. As a result, abas users are always using the most up-to-date product. abas Business Software can be run using Linux, Unix and Windows. ABAS has supported the open source operating system Linux on the server-side since 1995. Approximately 80% of over 2,200 abas installations are based on Linux. Linux has proven to be a cost effective, stable and high performance system on both the server and the client side.

The service spectrum includes: sales/sales order processing/shipping, purchasing/purchase orders, warehouse management, scheduling, logistics, materials management/MRP, production/PPC, financial accounting, fixed asset accounting, cost accounting, controlling, Web applications, eBusiness, portal, etc.

Company profile

ABAS Software AG is a leading provider of cost-effective ERP solutions for midsize manufacturers and distributors. More than 2,200 customers have chosen ABAS as their IT specialist and work successfully with the internationally applicable abas Business Software. ABAS, established in 1980 and once characterized by students, has now become a global network of companies. ABAS Software AG in Karlsruhe employs more than 120 people, and together with over 50 abas partners ABAS employs approx. 600 employees worldwide. The abas software partners provide a wide range of services including implementation, customization, hardware and network support. ABAS also provides on-site support and ensures short reaction times and high service quality. International partners in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Spain, Iran, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, China, Hong Kong, Australia, Mexico, and the USA represent the ABAS Software AG throughout the world. The partner network is continuously being expanded.

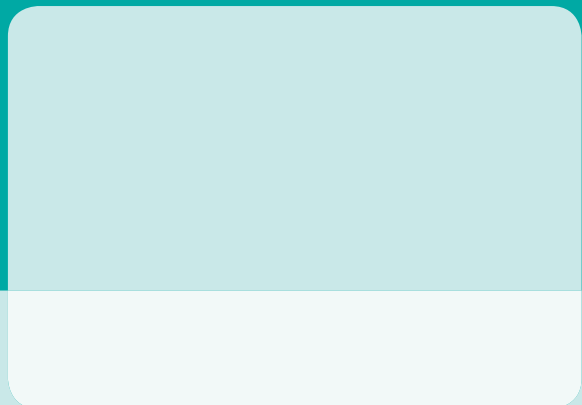


Düker GmbH & Co. KGaA

Düker GmbH & Co. KGaA is a medium-sized company with a tradition of a smeltery and hammer mill. Today there are five divisions: drainage technology, glasslining technology, engineering and jobbing foundry. With cast iron products, Düker is one of the leading manufacturers of valves and pressure fittings for the drinking water and gas supply as well as of pipes and fittings for the drainage systems. Furthermore the development and production of acid-proof enamelled components and pipes for the plant engineering of the chemical and pharmaceutical industry as well as service activities from planning to realisation of casting machines belong to the core competence of Düker. In the Lower Franconian locations Karlstadt and Laufach there are around 700 employees with an apprenticeship rate of approximately 10%. So Düker is one of the biggest German iron foundries.



Your abas Software Partner:



Software Provider: