

Allevo at Thyssenkrupp



ThyssenKrupp (Inoxum) is one of the world's leading producers of corrosion-, acid- and heat-resistant stainless steel flat products, and possesses an extensive distribution network. In the new production facility in Alabama, ThyssenKrupp Stainless USA, LLC has freed itself from offline cost planning process. Many individual Excel files have been replaced by a planning system which is completely integrated into SAP.

Michael Janoschka (CIO) is convinced that this leap in quality could be achieved by the Excel integration into SAP as offered by Allevo, and that the sophisticated demands from coldrolling, steel plant and administration on the planning process, the usability and the implementation could be met.

Maria Moggee (Cost Engineer) and Andreas Berg (Head of Controlling) steered the evaluation of alternative solutions, and after the decision for Allevo guided the introduction of the new application. Below, Moggee reports on the experience gained by the controlling team with the first recently completed planning session.

Key figures for the project and the application

Workshop and Blueprint: December 2011

Project Start: February 2012

Go-live: May 2012

Planning Scope: 150 cost centers for the productive cold-rolling, steel works and administration with 650 cost elements, 100 activity types, and numerous statistical key figures.

Planning method: output indicators (throughput in tons, thickness, width, length off lat steel, etc.) combined with input indicators (use of primary and process energy, recycling processes, services, etc.) determine the activity-dependent primary costs, consumptions and allocations (in fixed and variable proportions respectively).

Project Order

Previous planning instruments could bring only limited transparency to the technically complex cost planning process. Therefore ThyssenKrupp Stainless USA, LLC – as part of the “Greenfield” project in Calvert, Alabama, USA – decided on a planning process that, from planning preparation through implementation to plan-analysis and -assessment, should be fully integrated into the SAP system. The controlling team aimed to develop a global universal solution that would increase flexibility and reduce time expenditure. Causes of the inefficiencies were:

- The manual determination of reference data in SAP and their export to Excel files.
- The high efforts for manual entry, resulting from cluttered interfaces.
- The non-transparent planning conditions, as consolidated reports were difficult or impossible to achieve.
- The coordination efforts due to the various, often individualized planning information sets.
- The final, manual (and thus errorprone) transfer from Excel to SAP.

Solution

With the solution offered by Allevo for the integration of Excel into SAP ERP, a user-friendly interface has been created which now unifies even the distinctive cost and activity planning of the steel mill and cold rolling mill. The new planning environment has the following characteristics:

- New and clearly structured performance relations in three planning layouts instead of „countless“ Excel files.
- Primary cost planning and power consumption for different performance types – derived from Excel formulas and posted directly into SAP.
- Control information for performance-based planning are available as statistical key figures which at any time can be parameterized and made transparent in SAP reports.
- Allevo offers a special interface between SAP and SAP ERP HCM for the annual consolidate planning of personnel costs.

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Maria Moggee,
Thyssenkrupp

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Experience

Maria Moggee:

“With Allevo we have been able to create a flexible, integrated and user-friendly interface which makes our technology-driven, highly sophisticated planning process more efficient and gain more time for substantive analyses and assessments. Due to the complete integration of all plan data and decisionrelevant information into the SAP system, we can continuously track the planning lifecycle with SAP standard reports.

We can detect early any unexpected deviations and make changes in a focused and flexible way. This is equally possible in the planning phase of »implementation« as well as during the »analysis« and »evaluation« phases.

Our reaction time has improved dramatically, with additional positive impact on the quality of planning and on the acceptance of the planning process and its results.

The cooperation in the project was marked by constant innovation, professionalism and collegiality. The support from Kern is characterized by competence and flexibility in terms of response speed and problem solving ability.”