



HerkulesGroup

An International Group on the Road to Success with proALPHA

Mechanical and Plant Engineering

Name:

HerkulesGroup Services GmbH

Website:

www.herkulesgroup.com

Products:

Roll grinders, texturing machines, portal milling machines, lathes, boring mills, custom gearboxes, machine controls, and measuring systems

Locations:

Siegen (headquarters), Burbach, Chemnitz, Meuselwitz, Sonthofen, Ford City/USA, Kolkata/India, Jiaying City/China, sales offices around the globe

Employees:

1,600 (2015)

Focus on the module:

Integration Workbench, Advanced Planning & Scheduling (APS), Service

Highlights

- Consistent IT and process landscape for the entire group
- Optimum support for international business
- Seamless intercompany processes within the group
- Multi-site production planning across borders
- Central storage location for data and documents, minimum error rate
- Efficient service management

The companies of the HerkulesGroup are world renowned experts in the field of precise and efficient machining of large workpieces. Be it grinding, texturing, turning, boring or milling, the companies of the owner-managed group offer versatile solutions tailored to suit any needs. The group emerged from Maschinenfabrik Herkules, originally founded in 1911, and perfectly combines expertise and longstanding experience with innovative thinking. Its heavy-duty machine tools are unrivaled. The HerkulesGroup excels in reliability, long-term planning, and vertical integration. All core components are manufactured by the group's companies themselves.

Herkules wants to be close to its customers. The ERP solution proALPHA supports the group in achieving this goal by synchronizing the processes at its five locations in Germany and promoting cooperation with its international sites. Herkules has been using proALPHA in China since 2010 and in the USA since 2012. The group harmonizes its corporate data using the Integration Workbench (INWB).



The HerkulesGroup specializes in heavy-duty machine tools: rollers for sheet metal and paper production, crankshafts for ship and industrial engines and turbine rotors for utility companies are examples of workpieces that are typically machined on HerkulesGroup products. Depending on their design and the manufacturing method used, high-precision machine tools can handle workpieces of up to 500 tonnes. High precision is also a decisive factor in the group's production processes because most products are manufactured at multiple sites in different countries.

variety of workflows and organizational structures of its companies. The Integration Workbench (INWB) serves as a central communication platform that allows data, documents and other information to be automatically exchanged and imported into the databases at the sites in China and the USA. The group synchronizes its 280,000 part master files using the INWB. Efficient planning, control and optimization of all processes and information flows is ensured at all times. Employees working at the site in the USA can swiftly order required parts from Germany, for

“proALPHA fosters the international growth of our group.”

Nils Napp, Head of IT, HerkulesGroup Services GmbH



Intercompany Processes: Synchronizing 280,000 Part Master Files

Order processing is controlled by the German locations. Most machines are therefore engineered in Germany, too. The companies based in China and the USA require access to drawings, part master files and bills of materials too, however, regardless of whether they complete their own orders or those of other companies of the group. The prerequisite for this is efficient information management that optimizes information flow between the group's individual companies. The HerkulesGroup uses the intercompany processes provided by proALPHA to map the wide

example. Delays and inaccurate information relating to engineering progress are avoided. Since all business processes between the companies can be fully traced and consolidated, transparency is increased, too.

Production Planning: On-Time Delivery Is Key

To plan its production involving multiple sites and countries, the HerkulesGroup uses proALPHA APS (Advanced Planning & Scheduling). The group attaches great importance to reliable scheduling. "We can't do without it," says Nils Napp, Head of IT at the HerkulesGroup. "On-time delivery is key to our business. If we cannot meet a deadline, we face severe penalties. We therefore need realistic production planning with which we can optimize our resource utilization." proALPHA APS prioritizes work orders and issues warnings in case of bottlenecks or overloads. It enables the group to confirm reliable delivery dates to its customers and meet them even if the production cycle has to be adjusted on short notice. Since completed production steps can be reported in proALPHA, all relevant data are automatically provided for cost accounting and actual costings.

The powerful planning tool also supports the HerkulesGroup's companies in assigning thousands of individual parts to the



corresponding assemblies already when they are received in stock. "This allows us to trace every single component at any stage," says Mr. Napp.

Accelerating Service Processes

Efficient spare parts management is indispensable to a company providing machines made of thousands of components. Since defective or worn components may lead to the breakdown of an entire machine, the HerkulesGroup strives to replace them as fast as possible. "We want to be able to provide our customers with spare and wear parts quickly," says Mr. Napp. And this is what the group does. Based on the product structures stored in proALPHA, its service employees and technicians can immediately identify the components that have to be replaced and order them from Germany right away.

They have all relevant data at hand, even during calls with customers. Employees in the USA and China can check the entire life cycle of a machine and access information about current and original configurations, installed parts, and service agreements. Each request for a spare part or error report that overseas employees enter is immediately available in proALPHA. As a result, their German colleagues are well-informed about the current situation, too.



Relying on proALPHA Pays Off

The intercompany processes provided by proALPHA helped the HerkulesGroup establish a consistent IT landscape that controls the goods and value flows at all its sites. All employees can check orders and changes at any time. Since corporate data are readily available, the group managed to reduce its error rate to a minimum. proALPHA APS synchronizes MRP and production at multiple sites in different countries. It ensures efficient, realistic planning based on delivery dates. The group also accelerated its processes in service and spare parts management. Mr. Napp sums it up: "We have relied on proALPHA for many years. This pays off: the group processes are perfectly geared to each other and teams cooperate well."

"The Integration Workbench provides all the companies in our international group with consistent information and data."

Nils Napp, Head of IT, HerkulesGroup Services GmbH

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User Report

