



Success in digital production thanks to MES

# User Report

**VION Convenience GmbH**



## Initial Situation

VION Convenience GmbH from Großostheim-Ringheim is one of the leading manufacturers of self-service fresh meat products for the food retail sector. Founded in 1980, the company is one of the many subsidiaries of VION Food Germany and its 240 employees manufacture over 100 prod-

ucts. As part of Operational Excellence (OpEx), the VION Convenience GmbH rises to the challenge of making its production processes fully transparent. This is where the MES FASTEC 4 PRO comes in.



*“OpEx is an important pillar of our corporate strategy. With the help of IT support and a database, possible optimization potentials are to be revealed.”*

**Dirk Kirchner**  
Production Manager  
Vion Convenience GmbH



## Revealing Reserves With More Transparency

# From OEE Measuring Device to a Manufacturing Execution System



12 months after the introduction of FASTEC 4 PRO, it was possible to reduce unreasonable interruptions from previously up to 47 min/day to a maximum of 10 min/day.

As part of OpEx, VION wants to make its production processes transparent in order to uncover hidden production reserves on the one hand and weak points in production on the other.

- **Better and More Efficient Planning With MES**

As early as 2010, the OpEx idea was declared a key issue for VION Food Group. The Bavarian company VION Convenience GmbH in Grobostheim-Ringheim with Dirk Kirchner as production manager started as an OpEx pilot user shortly after. Daniel Fries was recruited for the OpEx team from internal production quality control.

Three production lines were to be monitored and analyzed. The machine park for this area comprises a total of 36 machines. Previously, the recording of production times, set-up times and downtimes was done manually and only in note form and therefore proved to be very time-consuming. In order to identify possible optimization potentials, an exact database should be automatically recorded with the help of IT support. The IT company FASTEC GmbH based in Paderborn was chosen to carry out this task.

*“OpEx is an important pillar of our corporate strategy and focuses on quality, safety and efficiency in VION production.”*

**Dirk Kirchner**  
Production Manager  
Vion Convenience GmbH

## Reduction of Unreasonable Interruptions

## Production Key Figures

- **Fully Automatic and in Real Time**

To determine the OEE value, all machine states and their duration should be clearly recorded in order to then optimize the production processes with the help of subsequent evaluations.

Vion gained initial experience in automatic data acquisition in October 2010 with the easyOEE productivity measuring device that can be used immediately to optimize individual machines or lines. "With easyOEE, for the first time we were able to determine on which machines the most downtimes occur, i.e. where our greatest potential for improving production lies," explains Dirk Kirchner. "With easyOEE we have the complete measured values of daily production of a line. That is why we always know exactly where we are," adds Daniel Fries. Dealing with easyOEE turned out to be the perfect training for the subsequent use of the modular MES system FASTEC 4 PRO. The software solution was put into operation within only 14 days. The consistent MES system offers the advantage of easy integration of all product-related resources.

With the switch to FASTEC 4 PRO, there was the possibility of expanding the reasons for disruptions already defined with easyOEE. In addition, the data entered manually at the beginning could be entered into the system as a basis.

It was now possible to define 16 more reasons for downtimes per assembly. In this way, a fault can be clearly defined from the point of view of the machine operators on the line. Dirk Kirchner reports: "In the first week after putting FASTEC 4 PRO into operation, individual so-called unfounded interruptions of up to 47 minutes were still registered. At the end of 2011, we recorded unfounded interruptions totaling 10 minutes a day at the maximum."

\*OEE = Overall Equipment Effectiveness  
\*MES = Manufacturing Execution System

*"With easyOEE we have the complete measured values of daily production of a line. That is why we always know exactly where we are."*

**Daniel Fries**  
Quality Manager  
Vion Convenience GmbH

## Evaluations in Seconds

# Determination of Production Key Figures – Essential for Optimization

Even the special feature that different language versions are in use at VION in Großostheim was no problem for the MES system from FASTEC. It allows the user interface of the touch panels to be configured in any language. Employees can operate the terminals independently of each other in their own language.

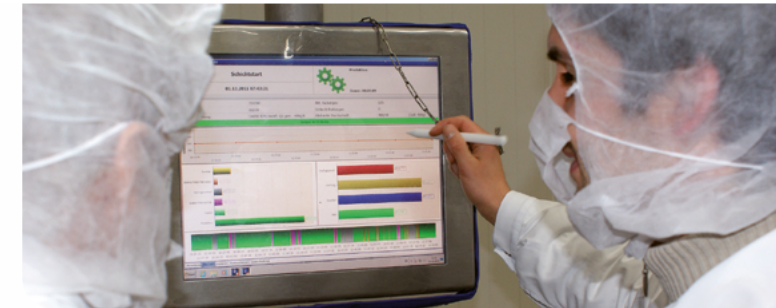
- **Current Values at a Glance**

Those responsible for OpEx can get an overview of the current status of the entire production at any time, even without being present at the Großostheim site. With the help of monitoring, OEE values, downtimes and exact reasons for downtimes per line are displayed in real time. With large screens placed in a clearly visible position, the project managers and operating personnel also receive information about the production progress of the individual lines. It can quickly be seen whether raw materials, ingredients or packaging materials are missing. Unusual deviations are also immediately apparent, e.g. if a product change suddenly takes 12 instead of 3 minutes. In addition to the recording of machine and production data and the OEE values de-

rived from them, the organization of a smooth and seamless reporting system is crucial for VION.

For example, the alarm function of FASTEC 4 PRO automatically sends an e-mail or SMS as soon as the system detects a certain status or a justified standstill such as "product missing."

"If something unusual happens in production, we are able to react immediately and in a targeted manner. In addition, everything is logged in detail and documented so that it can be evaluated, in this way we can achieve constant process optimization with regular evaluations," explains Dirk Kirchner.



*Daniel Fries from the internal production quality control relies on FASTEC 4 PRO for consistent monitoring and detailed evaluation of the values obtained.*

***"If something unusual happens in production, we are able to react immediately and in a targeted manner."***

**Dirk Kirchner**  
Production Manager  
Vion Convenience GmbH

## One Terminal – Many Languages

## Result: 60% OEE Value Within One Year

### • More Throughput, Less Waste, Shorter Downtime

Monitors are installed directly at the lines, which almost in real time show the operating personnel which portion weights have actually run on the respective line.

In addition to a faster reaction time for weight control, this transparency also led to better adherence to weight tolerances and a drastic reduction in the amount of rejects.

As a result of using FASTEC 4 PRO, Dirk Kirchner and Daniel Fries conclude:

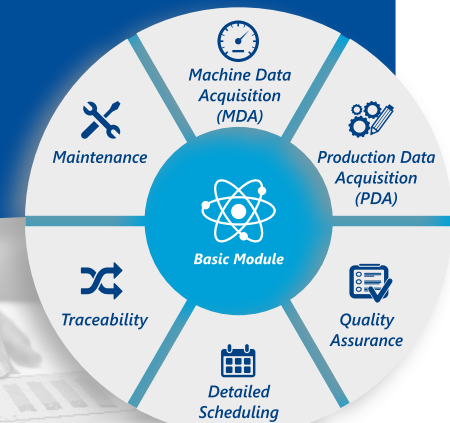
*"We are very satisfied. About a year ago, we had an OEE of 35 % and we currently reach 60 %. If we only reach 50 %, we ask ourselves what the cause is and begin to do research."*

*We can now react to disturbances in production on time thanks to the transparency achieved, thus we can also plan in advance much better – hectic rushes are a thing of the past."*

**Dirk Kirchner/Daniel Fries**  
Production Manager/Quality Manager  
Vion Convenience GmbH

### Overview:

- Industry: Food Industry
- MES system FASTEC 4 PRO with the modules Machine Data Acquisition, Production Data Acquisition, Monitoring, Alerting, Detailed Scheduling
- Interfaces to CSB ERP system with order acceptance and order confirmation
- Integration of 3 production lines with a total of 36 machines
- Alerting with escalation management



# Optimized Planning Through Transparency

## Why Not Get to Know Us Personally?

Production companies must produce on time, in a traceable, flexible and customer-specific manner, while ensuring consistently high quality. Achieving these goals requires transparency through real-time information, good planning and quick and adequate reactions to deviations. Our Manufacturing Execution System (MES) FASTEC 4 PRO is the right tool for this purpose. With great success since 1995.

### We would also like to give you a good advice personally!

Our sales department will be happy to provide you with further user reports and information material! Or else, make an appointment with our sales department for a presentation at your location, in our company or via web. Of course, you can also experience FASTEC 4 PRO live and on site with our customers.

[vertrieb@fastec.de](mailto:vertrieb@fastec.de) or by phone at: **+49 5251 1647-0**

Additionally, we offer videos of our software and customer solutions in our YouTube channel:

[www.youtube.com/FASTECGmbH](http://www.youtube.com/FASTECGmbH)

**FASTEC GmbH**  
Technologiepark 24  
D-33100 Paderborn  
**+49 5251 1647-0**  
info@fastec.de  
www.fastec.de

Gold  
**Microsoft Partner**  


**SAP**  
Silver  
Partner

With FASTEC 4 PRO, you gain the necessary level of transparency in all areas of production in real time, enabling you to discover previously unused potential for increasing productivity and optimizing processes. Thanks to targeted planning, you can also respond to short-term requirements from sales and efficiently design production processes – traceable and documented.



### FASTEC 4 PRO

- Get transparent data in real time
- Reduce production costs
- Detect and eliminate weak points
- Develop high productivity potentials
- Benefit from the continuous flow of information
- Use available resources efficiently

▶ **As a data hub, FASTEC 4 PRO is essential on the way to the Smart Factory.**