



User Report

Dr. Willmar Schwabe Corporate Group



Content

Transparency Instead of a Black Box

Eliminating the black box in production and achieving complete transparency across all lines and machines was the main goal of the project. With the help of an easy-to-use software solution, it was possible to increase the OEE by 5 percentage points (5 %).

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**Unternehmensgruppe
Dr. Willmar Schwabe**
From Nature. For Health.

Initial Situation

The Schwabe Group is a family-managed, medium-sized company in the 5th generation. The company has two production sites in Germany and several others abroad. With 4,000 employees worldwide, the Schwabe Group produces phytopharmaceuticals, homeopathic medicines, and dietary supplements.

As a global company focused on product safety and sustainability, the Dr. Willmar Schwabe Company wanted to digitalize production processes and thus make its operations more transparent and efficient. The packaging process in particular was a black box for the responsible senior executives. Again and again production key figures were determined via manual data collection. However, this procedure is error-prone and does not offer comprehensive evaluation possibilities.

Criteria for the Introduction of a Software Solution:

- Easy usability to increase acceptance among employees
- Appealing visual display options for reports
- Flexible configurability without major programming effort

Reasons for FASTEC:

The company Dr. Willmar Schwabe took the first step into digital production with the potential analysis and the productivity measuring device easyOEE by FASTEC. Satisfied with the potential uncovered, a comprehensive software solution was to be introduced throughout production. The decision was made directly on FASTEC 4 PRO thanks to its simple and intuitive usability as well as the numerous positive feedbacks from other FASTEC users experienced during reference appointments.

“We wanted to know the status of our lines at all times - even when we're not on site in production.”

Gerhard Kroker

Director Production Packaging, Dr. Willmar Schwabe Corporate Group

Focus on Product Safety and Sustainability

Solution

Our Software:

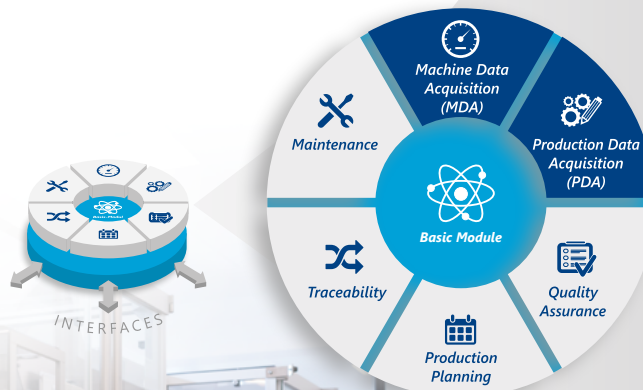
Flexible, Modular, Individually Adaptable

The modular software solution FASTEC 4 PRO supports the optimization of your entire production.

It improves production planning, creates more transparency and regulated processes, provides KPIs, analyses and reports – regardless of industry and flexibly adaptable even to special production processes.

Based on the basic module, the six main modules can be combined according to individual requirements and supplemented by various additional functions. The individual modules access a joint and standardized database.

As a result, consistent data is available at all times – there are no additional interfaces between the modules and no redundant double data storage.



Implementation:

- **Applied Modules**
 - Basic Module
 - Machine Data Acquisition (MDA)
 - Production Data Acquisition (PDA)
- **Additional Functions**
 - KPIs
 - View Client
 - Alerting

Both the department managers and the team leaders of technology and assembly discuss the current data from FASTEC 4 PRO in regular meetings.

Special attention is paid to data input and accuracy as well as any anomalies and trends in the data points.

Based on the increased error occurrence at individual points in the production process or conspicuous downtimes, the cause research begins in order to derive measures for optimization.



Implementation

• Cooperation at Eye Level

Henryk Wiche, project manager of the Schwabe Group, praises the cooperation in the project with FASTEC: „The project preparation and work on the part of FASTEC was very good, I would like to highlight that once again. We were extremely satisfied with that. There are rarely projects that run so smoothly!“ As expected, the requirement to implement an easy-to-use system had a positive effect on employee satisfaction. They received two live training sessions on the system. After that, they were able to work with the software independently.

“The workshop was very well prepared in terms of content; we then knew exactly what steps would be taken next.”

Gerhard Kroker
Director Production Packaging
Dr. Willmar Schwabe Corporate Group

• Employees Enthusiastic About Reports

The large screens in production and the displays from FASTEC 4 PRO aroused interest and thus also increased acceptance of the system. Employees who had not been in packaging for a longer period of time and saw the screens for the first time were always very impressed. At the beginning of the project, concerns were expressed both by the works council and by individual employees. After a live demonstration of how FASTEC 4 PRO works in detail, these were quickly resolved and it became clear: FASTEC 4 PRO monitors the machine(s) – not the human.

“Clear structures and self-explanatory use were key elements for us to increase acceptance among employees.”

Henryk Wiche
Expert CIP / Idea Management
Dr. Willmar Schwabe Corporate Group

• Results - Convincing Data in Real-Time

The employees working with the Office Client no longer want to do without the tool. They have a daily overview of the current production status and can also see how the previous day or last week went. Reports are possible at any time with various filters at the click of a mouse. The real-time overview of the current data situation is by far the greatest benefit for everyone, because before the introduction of FASTEC 4 PRO, data was always only available with a major time delay. The black box of the past does no longer exist.

“We have a level of data accuracy here now that I didn’t expect, I have to say that in all honesty.”

Gerhard Kroker
Director Production Packaging
Dr. Willmar Schwabe Corporate Group

Transparency Instead of a Black Box

Results:

130 Optimization Measures Implemented Already

The software solution meets all the requirements defined by the Schwabe Group and thus provides the optimum data basis for optimization projects. The data is discussed at regular four meetings of the store floor team. As a result, more than 130 optimization projects have already been successfully implemented. This has a lasting effect on production performance. In the first year of using FASTEC 4 PRO, the OEE was increased by 5 %P across all lines.

"We have already successfully completed over 130 optimization measures based on the data from FASTEC 4 PRO."

Gerhard Kroker
Director Production Packaging
Dr. Willmar Schwabe Corporate Group

Insights Into Optimization Projects

Data from production forms the basis for investment decisions:

Major investments have already been made to increase productivity – without risk. A comparison with the investment can be made via the clear presentation of the occurring disruption and the associated exact extrapolation possibility. In this way, an exact statement can be made as to whether the investment is worthwhile or not.

1 | One example of a costly optimization measure is software updates on lines. Based on the data from FASTEC 4 PRO, it could be proven that the investments will pay off.

Of course, there are also smaller optimization projects that can be implemented promptly and do not entail large costs:

2 | For example, it was noticed at the bundle packer that bundles were not packed correctly. This then prompted a modification to the in-process controls to ensure quality and reduce reject.

3 | During foil changes on the blister lines, it was noticed that the foil was often misaligned, which led to malfunctions. Many previous attempts to address the problem were unsuccessful. In FASTEC 4 PRO, the reason for the malfunction was added, and a button for the alignment of the foil after a roll change was added. After some time, it turned out that this was the most frequent reason for the malfunction. Consequently, all employees were trained again and made aware of potential error sources. Since then, the error rate has been reduced enormously.

4 | Another vital point is that reasons for a shutdown of the machines(s) can now be determined precisely. This is particularly helpful when arguing with superiors. Based on the data, it is possible to make precise statements about the chronological sequence of events, for example, if the key figures are worse on one day. Production is not always directly responsible for this. For instance, if a high-bay warehouse is not functioning and no goods can reach production, then the lines are at a halt.

OEE Increase by 5 %P

Results:

Short Downtimes Identified as Causes for Potential Cost Savings

At the beginning of the application with FASTEC 4 PRO, disruptions were only recorded starting at five minutes; today, disruptions are already registered beginning from one minute. In this way, it was possible to determine how often minor disruptions actually occur and what enormous influence they have on efficiency.

On all lines, there were around 1,000 short disruptions per month, which received no attention whatsoever. These are lost productivity potentials. After analyzing the sources of the disruptions, it became clear that many of them were due to handling errors, which could be significantly reduced through training measures.



Conclusion:

Thanks to FASTEC 4 PRO as a tool for collecting real-time data from production, the Dr. Willmar Schwabe company has been able to change its entire way of working. The result is complete transparency of all states at all times. This enables employees to make fact-based decisions as well as implement optimization projects. Through a total of over 130 measures, the OEE could be increased by 5 %P in the first year. A great success!

The successful project will be continued in the future, and additional functions and/or modules will gradually be implemented in the solution. An interface to the ERP SAP is also under discussion. We are looking forward to further cooperation!



"In the past, such things were argued from memory, now we can prove it. That's incredibly valuable."

Gerhard Kroker

Director Production Packaging, Dr. Willmar Schwabe Corporate Group

Fact-Based Decision-Making

Customer Testimonials

"We were able to increase our OEE by 5%P across all lines in the first year."

"Without FASTEC, these insights would not have been possible."

"The black box of the past does no longer exist. The transparency alone about the current state of the plants is worth a mint to us. And not to mention the wide range of evaluation options."

resumes
Gerhard Kroker
Director Production Packaging
Dr. Willmar Schwabe Corporate Group

"We got exactly what we wanted from FASTEC. The expectations were all met, so the investment was definitely worth it for us!"

"Make it as easy as possible to get started. Start with the basics of a MDA and PDA and look at the results. Then you can decide which other functions you need and gradually build your individual software solution."

resumes/recommends
Henryk Wiche
Expert KVP / Ideenmanagement
Unternehmensgruppe Dr. Willmar Schwabe

Our Arguments for FASTEC 4 PRO

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 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

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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.**

