



# User Report

**Rügenwalder Mühle GmbH & Co. KG**



# Content

## Driving Sustainability Through

### Digitalization

Saving resources, packaging materials and energy efficiency are the main focus of Rügenwalder Mühle's production. With a focus on sustainability in the corporate philosophy, appropriate measures have been implemented in all areas.

Digital production is a crucial piece of the strategy puzzle.

- **Initial Situation**
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# Initial Situation and Objectives

## Company

Based in Bad Zwischenahn in Lower Saxony, Rügenwalder Mühle is one of the best-known food manufacturers in Germany. Since 2014, the company has also been known for its vegan and vegetarian products in addition to sausage and ham. In this segment, it is now the market leader in Germany. In 2021, more sales were generated with meat alternatives than with meat-based products for the first time. Products are manufactured at a total of four sites for distribution throughout Germany. The FASTEC 4 PRO software solution is used at the two production sites at the company's headquarters in Bad Zwischenahn.

## Goal

For the family-owned company Rügenwalder Mühle, acting responsibly today means to not act at the expense of tomorrow, and here, not at the expense of elsewhere. Therefore, Rügenwalder Mühle has set itself the goal of making food production climate-neutral by 2025. Particularly important in this regard are a lower environmental impact from emissions as well as the conservation of resources, which goes hand in hand with the reduction of packaging waste.



# On the Road to Climate-Neutral Production

# Why an MES is Indispensable as a Tool

## 1 | Transparency Over All Processes

In the past, many areas of production were run „blindly“ because there was no transparency over processes. The possible production volume was also estimated. Both in the morning and in the afternoon, an arbitrarily defined number of units was produced.

## 2 | Uncovering Potentials, Realizing Optimizations

Likewise, the performance of the production facilities was not known. The number of shutdowns per year at the plants was not transparent. As a result, wastage due to production downtime could not be avoided, potentials could not be uncovered, and consequently performance could not be improved due to the lack of a measurement basis. „Acting on gut feeling“ was the norm.

## 3 | Making Optimal Use of Resources

When demand increased, additional resources, in the form of equipment or personnel, were made available. It was not known whether there was still potential available in existing resources.



## 4 | Avoiding Waste and Reject

In order to save resources and avoid waste, reports on current data from production are indispensable. By analyzing this data, sources of error in the production process can be identified at an early stage and specific action can be initiated. Production management can take targeted countermeasures and avoid rejects entirely or reduce them significantly. As a well-known, innovative company, Rügenwalder Mühle ensures long-term competitiveness thanks to the introduction of an MES solution.

## 5 | Assure Quality

Since machine data regarding produced quantity and quality are continuously recorded, Rügenwalder Mühle's quality management has transparent data on compliance with defined quantity and quality parameters. This reduces the waste of materials and ensures the high quality standard.

## 6 | Increasing Efficiency

Digitalization makes a major contribution to increasing material efficiency – during manufacturing, during packaging and through paperless production.

# Sustainable Production

# Solution

## Our Software:

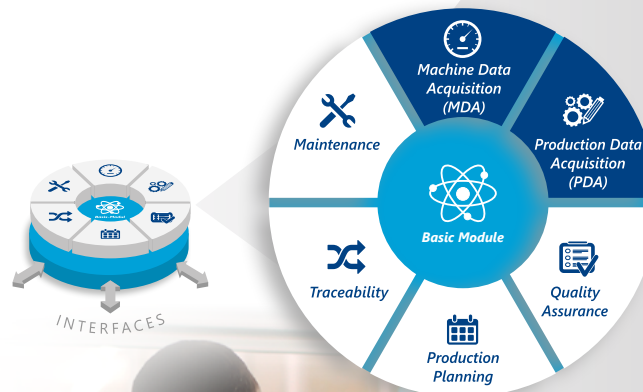
### Flexible, Modular, Individually Adaptable

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 at 29 Units:

### Applied Modules:

- Machine Data Acquisition (MDA)
- Production Data Acquisition (PDA)

### Applied Additional Functions:

- Alerts
- Personnel Time Recording
- Monitoring with large screens
- Mobile Client

### OEE as the Central Key Figure:

At Rügenwalder Mühle, all processes and units are measured against this key figure. The OEE is constantly increased and set ever higher as a target in order to drive continuous improvements.

### Rejects as a Further Key Figure:

In order to fulfill the sustainability strategy, reject rates are to be continuously reduced. This is considered for each line in percent.



# Solution:

## FASTEC 4 PRO an Essential Part of Day-to-Day Business

Several years ago, experience was already gained in digital data acquisition with easyOEE. With the construction of the new packaging plant, both plants were then equipped with the holistic software solution FASTEC 4 PRO. The OEE value is the central key figure at Rügenwalder Mühle, and is used as a basis for assessment at all levels.

Almost all areas of the company work with the data from FASTEC 4 PRO, for example packaging, production, research and development, and engineering. A continuous improvement process is anchored in the corporate culture.

Thanks to FASTEC 4 PRO, technical service can see at a glance in a graphic how many availability losses occur due to equipment malfunctions. This makes the importance of intact equipment clear and repairs are implemented with the highest priority.

Both the productivity and the load capacity of the lines are to be increased. Reports on risks in the event of increased volume on lines are also essential. If certain lines have problems with large production volumes, production orders can be distributed differently to harmonize

*"With a solid data basis, we can precisely justify requests for investments to the management. FASTEC is a tremendous asset for the company."*

**Sergej Oks**  
Lean Change Agent

the load and increase efficiency in the long term. Supply planning also uses the data, for example, as a basis for decisions on investments in the expansion of resources.

In daily internal meetings, the head of production and the department heads report to the management team and the executive board. The performance of production is discussed on the basis of daily data. In addition, the shift managers also communicate the figures to the employees

on the shopfloor on a daily basis. The overviews on the large screens in production, which are displayed via the View Client, offer a great deal of added value.

The employees on the lines can interpret the figures and thus also independently derive smaller measures to further improve processes.

The visualization of the OEE key figure for the last two months shows performance as an orientation on the respective lines. The hit list also visualizes where the most time is lost due to unplanned downtime in order to set focal points or priorities for optimization.

The employees appreciate these visualizations very much. They also actively approach the shift management and expect optimization measures to be taken in the event of increasing disruptions. Suggestions for improvement therefore not only come from above, but are also triggered directly from production.

## OEE Value as Central Key Figure



# Result: All Requirements Were Fulfilled

## Convincing Usability

A single eight-hour training course was sufficient to give employees a basic understanding of how to use the software and how to create reports independently. A key user receives further training on a regular basis to provide detailed assistance in using the software.

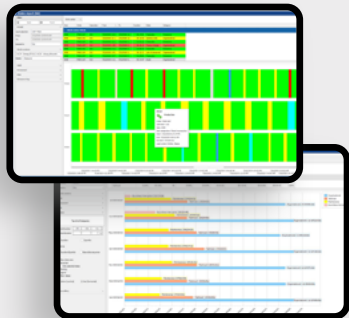
## Flexibility With Key Figures and Extensions

For the Rügenwalder Mühle, the individual configuration of key figures is a core element of the functionality of FASTEC 4 PRO.

The Additional Function of the configurable KPIs enables the quick and easy modification of key figures. Particularly worth highlighting is the option of defining the OEE individually and, for example, excluding setup times. The

graphical representation of the data allows for easier analysis and interpretation of the KPIs, thus enabling targeted optimization of the production processes.

The gradual expansion of the system with new plants was also possible quickly and easily. The plants were connected via BR modules or sensors and integrated into the FASTEC 4 PRO interface in just a few steps.



*"The diverse graphical display options are very convincing. We can always flexibly assemble the views as we need them."*

*"The visualizations are a huge benefit. To finally see everything in front of you the way you need it is a great advantage!"*



Sergej Oks  
Lean Change Agent

# Easy to Understand – Quickly Ready to Use

## Result: Production is Fit for the Future


The sustainability aspect, which is deeply anchored in the company's values, is pushed by the digitalization of production. When plants run without malfunctions, less waste is produced and production capacities are fully utilized. This saves resources such as packaging material or CO<sub>2</sub> and makes production more sustainable in the long term. Waste that was previously not transparent is now specifically uncovered and avoided.

For the next few years, Rügenwalder Mühle plans to further expand digital production. In the process, the states are to be read directly from the machine controls in the long term in order to obtain even more precise data and reduce manual effort. Consideration is also being given to implementing an SAP interface to eliminate manual feedback on the lines and thus eliminate sources of error. Furthermore, it is being considered to digitalize main-

tenance with FASTEC in order to minimize set-up and downtimes and to create transparency about maintenance processes.

### Tips for Starting a Digitalization Project from Rügenwalder Mühle:

It is important not to rush into anything and to always look at the big picture right from the start. Isolated solutions are inefficient; a solution for all areas should be the goal. Another tip for a valid database is to define the states for possible reasons for disruption as precisely as possible. If definitions are ambiguous, the significance can be lost, which makes it difficult to identify starting points for optimization projects.



*"FASTEC 4 PRO has definitely paid for itself,  
with as many savings as we were able to make  
through fact-based decisions."*

Sergej Oks  
Lean Change Agent



# Sustainable Production Through Digitalization



## 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)

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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.



- 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.**

